

Hafa Adai!

Inmate caught with drugs waives preliminary hearing. **PAGE 2**

Memorial for Navajo code talkers, NMI marine scouts pushed. **PAGE 15**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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Santos affirms termination of Rota Resort's land lease

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Public Lands Secretary Teresita A. Santos has affirmed the DPL administrative hearing officer's decision that terminates DPL's land lease agreement with Rota Resort & Country Club.

Santos said in her order Friday last week that the administrative hearing officer's decision last Dec. 5, 2023,

correctly concludes that Article II of the lease agreement does not apply to payment
See SANTOS on Page 4



Santos



EGG HUNT

Sharing is caring, and while some kids snatched, some shared. But each child who participated in yesterday's Easter Fun Day event at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe got to trade, share, smile, and even make new friends after gathering all their eggs and prizes.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

CCC COMMISSIONERS SERVED Court yet to rule on IPI's emergency TRO

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioners and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios have been served notices of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's

second request for a temporary restraining order to stay the ongoing revocation proceedings. Meanwhile, the court has yet to issue a ruling on IPI's emergency request for a TRO.

CCC chair Edward C.
See COURT on Page 4

Good Friday trek today

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of devout Catholics, as well as health enthusiasts, gathered early morning today at the bottom of Mt. Tapochau for the annual

trek up the mountain in honor of Good Friday.

As per tradition, the walk up the mountain is to represent the walk of Christ up Golgotha before His crucifixion on Good Friday, and many

See TREK on Page 4

Torres: I'm proud of my staff and how the situation was handled

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

In response to a recent case

where an inmate managed to smuggle methamphetamine inside the local prison, Department of Corrections

Commissioner Anthony Torres said he is on the whole proud of the way his staff handled the situation.

Torres said the fact that an inmate managed to smuggle drugs past DOC's booking process does not minimize

the way his staff handled the matter and that DOC continues to improve its contraband detection.

Inmate Abigail Renee Duenas, who is serving her sentence on a "segmented" basis—in

See TORRES on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has unveiled a new annex at its Emergency Department.

PAGE 3



SUPPLEMENT

Today's issue comes with a pullout supplement that celebrates the upcoming Easter.

PAGE 11



LIFE & STYLE

A mural by Banksy in London has been surrounded by fencing after an act of vandalism.

PAGE 19



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Local

Inmate caught with drugs waives preliminary hearing

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Department of Corrections inmate who was caught with methamphetamine in her cell has waived her right to a preliminary hearing last Wednesday.

As such, Abigail Renee Duenas is scheduled to appear in Superior Court on April 1 for her arraignment.

A preliminary hearing is when the court determines if there is probable cause to try an individual for the charges filed against them.

According to court documents, the Department of Public Safety received a call from DOC's Internal Affairs officer Lianna Quitugua on Monday, March 4, at around 2:39pm, who reported an illegal possession incident. At around 2:46pm that same day, police officer Bradford Peter met with Quitugua at DOC.

According to Quitugua, DOC officer Shaina Rios was conducting a cell search in the female unit, Pod-3 Section-C, when she discovered a clear Ziploc baggie containing a crystal-like substance. Quitugua said she tested the substance in the baggie using the Narcotics Identification Kit, which resulted in a presumptive positive result for the presence

of methamphetamine.

At around 7:32pm that same day, DPS officers arrived at DOC and met with Duenas.

According to Duenas, she entered DOC on Feb. 9, on a charge of theft and was released on Feb. 24. She was scheduled to return to DOC on Feb. 29 to start her sentence.

However, Duenas claims that before she was released on Feb. 24, she was allegedly approached by her fellow inmates, Liva Fitial and Shaina Castro, who knew that she would be returning and allegedly instructed her to smuggle methamphetamine for them when she returns. Duenas claims she obtained the drug from her brother-in-law and she hid the baggie in her underwear Duenas noted that the officer that searched her upon entering DOC did not see it.

Duenas claims said she was unable to hand over the Ziploc baggie to Fitial or Castro as they were in a different section.

Duenas claims she continued to hide the Ziploc baggie in her cell until March 4 when Rios conducted a cell search. Duenas added that she approached the officer herself and admitted she had drugs in her cell and that's how Rios found the drugs.

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES • CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB24-BECQ/DEQ-42400063

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 29, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS 'I' VEHICLE FOR BECQ/DEQ, SAIPAN"

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY BY APRIL 17, 2024, TO MR. ELI CABRERA VIA EMAIL AT eli.cabrera@becq.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

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CHCC unveils new annex at Emergency Department

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has unveiled a new annex at its Emergency Department that is designed to fast-track care for urgent cases.

The annex, called the Primary Care Access Point & Urgent Care Annex, is also intended to forge new pathways to primary care for those who traditionally face barriers in accessing healthcare services.

At the helm of this innovative venture are Dr. Matthew Nelson and physician assistant Thomas Vascik, whose leadership and expertise are critical to the annex's success.

CHCC said in a statement yesterday that the PCAP/Urgent Care Annex marks a transformative stride toward enhancing healthcare delivery in Saipan.

Equipped with modern medical technology and a dedicated team, the annex aims to deliver expedited care to urgent cases and seamlessly integrate patients into primary care settings.

The CHCC statement said that Nelson, who is the Emergency Department chairman,

"brings a rich tapestry of experience and dedication" to the community's health and well-being.

After relocating to Saipan in April 2020, his journey from Peace Corps service to becoming a pivotal figure in emergency medicine in Saipan "illustrates a profound commitment to community healthcare. His educational path led him from St. Louis University, where he graduated medical school in 2008, to the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho, completed in 2011.

"Dr. Nelson's career has spanned roles in rural emergency rooms, management of an outpatient family medicine clinic, directorship at an ambulance district and EMT Training School in Idaho, and positions in urgent care," CHCC said.

His move to Saipan, moti-



CHCC
Equipped with modern medical technology and a dedicated team, the annex aims to deliver expedited care to urgent cases and seamlessly integrate patients into primary care settings.

vated by the island's sense of community and natural beauty, has been enriching for his family, fostering a deep connection to the local culture and healthcare landscape.

"We chose to move to Saipan for the sense of community and the natural beauty of the island and culture," said Nelson. "Here, we've found a new home and community where my wife has a renewed passion for her profession and where my son is thriving. I am privileged not just to provide emergency medical care but to be part of something bigger, with opportunities to contribute to and improve medical care in the CNMI."

Vascik, on the other hand, is a seasoned physician assistant with 20 years of Emergency Department experience at a Level II hospital in Washington State. Vascik's interest in joining the Saipan healthcare team stems from his desire to blend professional growth with his passion for travel and cultural exploration. His approach to medicine emphasizes efficiency, teamwork, and patient-centered care, making him a valuable asset to the PCAP/Urgent Care Annex. Vascik looks forward to leveraging his extensive clinical and leadership skills to contribute to Saipan's diverse and remote community. **(PR)**

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AS BOOST PROBE CONTINUES

Committee to summon Taisague, others to testify

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives special committee that is investigating the previous administration's Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together, or BOOST program, agreed yesterday to summon former Department of Commerce Economic Development director Jesus Taisague and others who received BOOST monies, to testify.

All five members of the Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-Related Funding present at a meeting yesterday also voted "yes" to two motions to find former Department of Finance secretary David DLG. Atalig in contempt.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), who is the vice chair of the special committee, presided over the meeting.

The committee members agreed to authorize committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) to issue subpoenas to Taisague, "Alexandria" Yuan Ying, and Kevin C. Guerrero to testify at a date and time to be set by Yumul.

Taisague, who served as a member of the BOOST program review panel, partly owns Elite Group LLC, which does business as Lovebirds Restaurant on Tinian.

Jing is reportedly part-owner of Elite Group LLC and owns Flower Tea House, Saipan Goddess, and Saipan Horse Course in Kagman.

Guerrero reportedly owns COVID-Care Force Micronesia and Saipan Renal Care.

With respect to Atalig, it was Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) who moved to find the former Finance secretary in contempt. Flores said Atalig has repeatedly refused to testify under oath, and that

his failure to respond is in violation of the law.

Flores also moved to find

SANTOS

From page 1

of rent or abandonment of the premises.

Article 11 states that when a delay is caused by a *force majeure* event, the period of delay "shall be added to the period allowed for the completion of such work."

Force majeure refers to an unforeseeable circumstance

Atalig in contempt for disrespecting the investigative committee by unlawfully, knowingly, and willfully interfering directly with the operation and function of an investigating committee.

She said as seen through his testimony, and the exhibits presented in committee, Atalig has clearly interfered with the lawful performance of the officers of the 22nd CNMI Legislature's joint Judiciary

and Governmental Operations Committee, and Ways and Means Committee.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

that hinders a party from fulfilling its part in a contract.

Santos said the AHO's decision correctly concludes that Rota Resort LLC, which owns Rota Resort & Country Club, failed to establish that its failures were in whole or in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic because the company cannot establish that its failures would not have occurred but for COVID-19.

The DPL secretary said the

AHO decision correctly concludes that actual notice under Article 11 was required and that Rota Resort LLC failed to provide it.

She said the AHO decision correctly concludes that Rota Resort LLC abandoned the premises and that the abandonment was not excused by Article 11.

Pursuant to the Commonwealth Code, Rota Resort LLC is entitled to a judicial

review of Santos' decision in Superior Court within 30 days.

Rota Resort LLC and its owner, Hee Kyon Cho, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, appealed to Santos to reverse administrative hearing officer Ramon S. Dela Cruz's decision in December 2023.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

COURT

From page 1

Deleon Guerrero; vice chair Rafael S. Demapan; commissioners Mariano Taitano, Martin Mendiola, and Ramon M. Dela Cruz; CCC executive director Andrew Yeom; and Palacios were served notices of IPI's second request for a TRO against the proceedings to revoke IPI's casino gaming license.

Meanwhile, the court has decided to rule on IPI's request for a TRO based on the briefs submitted by all parties instead of setting a motion hearing on the matter.

Last Wednesday, IPI filed another request for a temporary restraining order to stay the CCC's revocation proceedings, this time claiming its due process rights will be violated if not granted one.

It was only last Feb. 27 when U.S. District Court for

the NMI designated judge David Carter denied IPI's motion for a TRO against CCC, essentially allowing the commission to move forward with proceedings to revoke IPI's casino gaming license.

Next week, April 2, the CCC is set to deliberate and vote on whether to revoke IPI's casino gaming license or not.

Because of this, IPI, through lawyers Stephen Nutting and Michael Chen, is again seeking a TRO to stay the proceedings

and to preserve the status quo, claiming possible violation of its due process rights, "pursuant to Rule 65 (b) of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure."

The temporary restraining order seeks to bar the CCC from proceeding with deliberation and voting for the revocation hearing of IPI's casino license on April 2.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TREK

From page 1

devout Catholic believers attempt the trek as a way of remembering the final moments of Christ before His earthly death.

Catholic parishes on island take turns in providing the giant wooden cross that will be carried by church devotees up the hill to be planted at the peak of Mt. Tapochau. This year the parish providing the cross is the Santa Soledad Parish in Kagman under Fr. Charlie Borja.

According to schedule, the cross will be brought to the Chalan Kanoa Diocese at around 4:30am where it will be blessed and then transported to the base of Mt. Tapochau at around 5:30pm, where the trek will begin shortly thereafter. Several chosen men usually carry the cross while the rest of the participants follow closely behind.

There are also expected to be dozens of rest stop stations lining the route from both government and private sectors providing water and medical assistance should it be needed.

TORRES

From page 1

this case every weekend—was allegedly caught with methamphetamine or "ice" in her cell last March 4 during a cell search conducted by a DOC officer. Charges of illegal possession and bringing contraband into a prison have already been brought against the defendant.

When asked about his thoughts on the situation, especially since Duenas told police that she managed to smuggle drugs past DOC's booking process, Torres said things like this might happen as DOC continues to improve its contraband detection.

"Things happen but when these contrabands come in, it's all about the accountability and when [DOC officers] are doing that, I know they're

doing their job. As to what [Duenas] told police, I can't speak on that, but I can speak on my staff and they found [the drugs] and charges were brought against her for the introduction of contraband. My staff thus far is doing a great job. Everyone is coming together and everyone is doing what they can to enforce our policies and rules," he said.

Torres assures the com-

munity that DOC remains dedicated to maintaining a zero-tolerance policy toward contraband and, with the recently passed contraband bill, the community can expect inmates and even officers who try to bring in contraband, to be held accountable.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB24-JUD-42400045

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 15, 2024 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE JUDICIARY COURT BY APRIL 5, 2024, TO MS. CHRISTINE ANINZO VIA EMAIL AT procurement@nmijudiciary.gov

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ TRACY B. NORITA
SECRETARY, FINANCE

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE, NMI JUDICIARY



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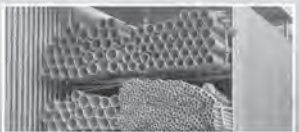
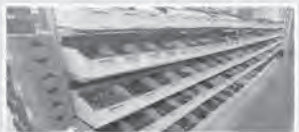


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NMC highlights AHEC Scholar Suah Cho Sakisat

Northern Marianas College shines the spotlight on Suah Cho Sakisat, a second-year Nursing student, as the featured Area Health Education Center Scholar for 2024 National AHEC Week.

The AHEC Scholars Program has equipped Sakisat with the knowledge and experience needed to serve populations in rural and underrepresented areas. Sakisat has diligently participated in 80 hours of clinical placements and has further solidified her theoretical foundation through 80 hours of compre-

hensive coursework delving into critical healthcare topics. These topics include Inter-professional Education, Behavioral Health Integration, the Social Determinants of Health, Cultural Competency, Practice Transformation, Virtual Learning and Telehealth, Connecting Communities and Supporting Health Professionals, and staying on top of current and emerging health issues.

With an expected graduation in May 2024, Sakisat's journey at NMC is marked by her unwavering commitment

to a robust healthcare system in our CNMI.

Sakisat's journey toward a nursing career began with a childhood desire to help others, a sentiment she carried with her into adulthood. It was during a seminar at NMC, while still in high school, that Sakisat was introduced to the transformative world of nursing. Inspired by the integral role nurses play in healthcare and fueled by her innate passion for aiding others, Sakisat embarked on her journey to become a nurse.

"Helping others has always

been my passion, and nursing seemed like the perfect fit," Sakisat said. "The opportunity to make a meaningful difference in someone's life every day is what drives me."

Looking ahead, Sakisat envisions specializing as an acute care nurse practitioner, with a focus on working in the Emergency Department. Her aspiration to provide acute care reflects her commitment to addressing immediate healthcare needs and ensuring patients receive the highest quality of care during critical moments.

Navigating the demanding nature of the nursing program, Sakisat has implemented strat-

egies to manage her workload effectively while maintaining a healthy balance. By prioritizing time management, collaboration with peers, and embracing a growth mindset, Sakisat has found ways to overcome challenges and thrive in her studies.

"I've learned the importance of teamwork and resilience in nursing school," Sakisat said. "Working together with my peers toward our common goal has made this journey memorable and rewarding."

As she prepares to serve the Commonwealth as a nurse, Sakisat is committed to dedicating her time to lifelong learning and advocating for underrepresented patients. Her dedication to providing equitable healthcare and serving as an active voice in the community underscores her commitment to improving healthcare access and outcomes for all residents of the CNMI.

"I believe everyone deserves access to quality healthcare, and I am committed to advocating for equal and affordable healthcare for all residents [in the CNMI]," Sakisat said.

Recognizing the significance of a robust nursing workforce for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, Sakisat emphasizes the importance of collaboration and education in addressing healthcare disparities.

"The health of our community is paramount, and it's essential to work together to build a robust healthcare system that meets the needs of all residents," Sakisat said.

As Sakisat continues her journey toward becoming a registered nurse, her dedication to healthcare and commitment to community well-being serve as a beacon of inspiration to her peers and the broader community. (PR)

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID
Automated Teller Machine
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-006-24
CPA Concession No.: SAT-2024-01

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations to provide Automated Teller Machine at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning March 15, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed on its austerity days and holidays. The IFB includes a layout and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpadmin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than April 2, 2024.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE SERVICES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-006-24."** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **3:00 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time, April 18, 2024**, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on April 18, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to provide Automated Teller Machine services at a certain designated location within the Saipan International Airport for a period of five (5) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

OWNERS/AGENT ENGINEER SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFQ-001-24

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

In collaboration with the Office of the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, CPA is continuing its modernization initiatives of the CNMI's air and seaports through the identification, development, implementation, and completion of major capital improvement plan (CIP) projects that will further enhance the air and seaports' resiliency, sustainability and core capabilities.

Therefore, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Owners/Agent Engineer (OAE) Services with the intent to provide CPA professional services and technical support in the areas of design and engineering services, program management support, financial consulting and analysis, and other related services specific to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, the Benjamin Manglona Taisacan International Airport, the Port of Saipan, the Rota West Harbor, and the Tinian Harbor.

The project is being funded by a grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) and is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at email address wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Nora Vincent at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024**.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their qualification statements no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024**. All proposals shall be addressed to the attention of CPA's Executive Director, Mr. Leo B. Tudela. Additionally, proposals transmitted via facsimile or email will not be accepted.

The professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria provided in the RFQ package.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Additional supporting documents that complement the qualification statements are encouraged.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all qualification statements for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: March 14, 2024

TINIAN FUEL SERVICES, INC.

PO Box 520800, Tinian, MP 96952
Tel. (670) 433-4428 • Fax. (670) 433-4427

Tinian Fuel Services, Inc. has an opening for:

ACCOUNTING CLERK (1)

DUTIES: Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store and analyze information.

QUALIFICATIONS: Four-year bachelor's degree major in management and accounting. Required college diploma, transcript of records and computer skills (Microsoft Office). Required to have 24 months of work-related skills, experience, knowledge and work.

WORKSITE LOCATION: San Jose Village, Tinian; Salary: \$11.21 to \$14.00/Hour; Work Hours: Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm; Overtime Available at 1.5 x base rate/hour; Frequency of Pay: Bi-Weekly; Deductions: All applicable CNMI and Federal Taxes; Benefits: Worker's compensation is provided.

CLOSING DATE: April 26, 2024

Interested applicants may submit their resume personally (walk-in) at our office located in San Jose Village, Tinian Tel No.: (670) 433-4428 or by emailing us their resume at service@tinianservice.com. Applicants may apply during weekdays only, Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm, excluding national holidays.

TINIAN FUEL SERVICES, INC.

PO Box 520800, Tinian, MP 96952
Tel. (670) 433-4428 • Fax. (670) 433-4427

Tinian Fuel Services, Inc. has an opening for:

SALES MANAGER (1)

DUTIES: Direct and coordinate activities involving sales of products, services or other subjects of sale. Resolve customer complaints regarding sales and services. Review operational records and reports to project sales and determine profitability. Determine price schedule and discount rates. Monitor customer preferences to determine focus of sales efforts. Direct, coordinate, and review activities in sales and service accounting and record-keeping, and in receiving and shipping operations.

QUALIFICATIONS: Required to have bachelor's degree major in Accountancy with 24 months of work-related skills, experience, and knowledge. Required to have an occupation in Sales Managing. Required college diploma, transcript of records and computer skills (Microsoft Office).

WORKSITE LOCATION: San Jose Village, Tinian; Salary: \$16.70/Hour; Work Hours: Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm; Overtime Available at 1.5 x base rate/hour; Frequency of Pay: Bi-Weekly; Deductions: All applicable CNMI and Federal Taxes; Benefits: Worker's compensation is provided.

CLOSING DATE: April 26, 2024

Interested applicants may submit their resume personally (walk-in) at our office located in San Jose Village, Tinian Tel No.: (670) 433-4428 or by emailing us their resume at service@tinianservice.com. Applicants may apply during weekdays only, Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm, excluding national holidays.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ronalyn L. Sison	} FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0371
Petitioner,	
vs.	} SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
Brando L. Sison	
Respondent,	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504351 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 13th day of March, 2024.

/s/
Dep. Clerk of Court

HAPPY EASTER EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH

Saipan's 1st ever 30 kinds of Sushi Brunch!

BOTTOMLESS SUSHI AVAILABLE

Every Sunday
11:00am ~ 14:00pm
Magellan Room

EASTER SPECIAL EGG HUNT

March-31, 2024
14:00pm ~ 15:00pm
PIC Sports Field

*Must show your brunch receipt to join the Egg Hunt

ADULT \$45.00

CHILD \$25.00

Just add \$5.00/person for waterpark access

**** Valid CNMI ID Required ****

RESERVATION REQUIRED : 670-237-5170

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SAAM to launch with proclamation signing on April 4

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, in collaboration with the 2024 Sexual Assault Awareness Month Planning Committee, invites

the public to attend the proclamation signing ceremony on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 10am at the Kensington Hall, Kensington Hotel Saipan in San Roque.

This ceremony not only marks the official declaration of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the CNMI but also emphasizes unity through this year's

theme, "I Stand With Survivors." Additionally, the ceremony will be livestreamed in collaboration with KUAM, providing accessibility for viewers via their Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/kuamnews>.

Throughout April, NMCADSV has organized a variety of events aimed at promoting awareness and outreach on the issue and empowering community members to engage in proactive efforts throughout the year.

On Sunday, April 7, 2024, individuals are encouraged to join the CNMI-Wide Day of Prayer events at various faith-based organizations. Then, on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, coinciding with National Denim Day, the community is invited to participate in the Wave, Walk & Roll Against Sexual Violence starting at the Koblerville Youth Center at 4:30pm.

Participants will receive 2024 SAAM T-shirts while supplies last. Lastly, on Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 11am to 4pm, the S.A.F.E (Safe, Aware, Free, Empower) Jamboree will take place at Hopwood Middle School field. This family fun day promises live music, performances including our highly anticipated Advocates' Lip Sync Battle, informational booths, kids' games and activities, food vendors, and exciting raffle prizes!

Events and activities on Rota include the SAAM/CAN Roadside Outreach Wave on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, from 3:30pm to 5pm at Gagu Beach

(located between Teteto Beach and Guata' Beach), and the SAAM/CAN Carnival Outreach Event on Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 6pm to 9pm at the Tun Kindo' Baseball Field.



Further details regarding events and activities for Tinian will be announced shortly.

In addition to these engaging activities, NMCADSV will be hosting a SAAM Spirit Week Social Media Challenge from Monday, April 22, to Friday, April 26, 2024. Participants are encouraged to join in and raise awareness through social media posts based on daily prompts provided by NMCADSV, with prizes awarded to those with the highest engagement.

Lastly, remember to tune in to 92.1 FM every Wednesday morning at 8am throughout April for insightful discussions featuring guest panelists covering topics related to SAAM.

For more information, contact NMCADSV directly at (670) 234-3878 or via email at Info@EndViolenceNMI.org. Stay in the loop with our latest updates and events by following us on Facebook and Instagram @EndViolenceNMI.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any form of sexual violence, assistance is available. Please call 911 for immediate emergency support or contact the 24/7 Karidat Victim Hotline at (670) 234-5100. (PR)


**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400061

SUBMISSION DATE: April 18, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Obyan Road Paving and Drainage Improvement Project."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **March 15, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 03, 2024, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 10, 2024 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of
Procurement Services


**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: DPW24-RFP No.: 42400073

SUBMISSION DATE: April 30, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Architectural-Engineering Services to Provide Feasibility Study and Design of the Proposed Maintenance Dredging at Smiling Cove Marina, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **March 22, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **April 09, 2024, 9:00 a.m. ChST**, at the DLNR Conference Room, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. ChST, on April 17, 2024** to **Mr. Sylvan Q. Igisomar, Secretary of DLNR**, Saipan. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
Acting Director, Division of
Procurement Services

Regenerative Agriculture!

WORKSHOP SERIES

Learn how to grow your own food!

**Tuesday
Apr. 02**

Tinian
Regenerative Agriculture Workshop - NMC Tinian Site, Room D, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

**Wednesday
Apr. 03**

Tinian
Hands-On/ Installation
CREES San Jose Research Station, 6:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Friday
Apr. 05**

Rota
Regenerative Agriculture Workshop - Puesto Grill Annex, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

**Saturday
Apr. 06**

Rota
Hands-On/ Installation
Sinapalo Residence, 6:30 AM - 2:30 PM
(Map will be provided in Day 1 workshop)

**Monday
Apr. 08**

Saipan
Session 01:
Commercial Farmer/KAFPA Workshop
LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Session 02:
PSS Teachers and Administrators
LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

**Friday
Apr. 12**

Saipan
Regenerative Agriculture Workshop - NMC Campus, Room K-1, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

**Saturday
Apr. 13**

Saipan
Hands-On/ Installation
As Teo Residence, 6:30 AM - 2:30 PM
(Map will be provided in Day 1 workshop)

Seats are limited!



TO REGISTER
please scan THIS
QR CODE!
bit.ly/REGENAGAPR24
Must be registered to participate!

For more information about the Regenerative Ag Workshop, please contact **Jesse Deleon Guerrero** at (670) 237-6876 or email jesse.dlguerrero@marianas.edu

Northern Marianas College CREES is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Northern Marianas College CREES is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education, and employment for individuals with disabilities. For more information or to request disability accommodation contact Margaret Kintol at margaret.kintol@marianas.edu




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HOME BASICS - STANDING MIRROR ROUND ASST NOW! \$99⁹⁵ WAS: \$124.95	DAHDOL - FAUX WOOD BLINDS 2" CORDLESS 40"X64" NOW! \$36⁹⁵ WAS: \$42.95	STERILITE 66QT SWEET PLUM LATCH BOX NOW! \$29⁹⁵ WAS: \$41.95	DAHDOL - 4PC KING MOONLIT BEDSPREAD NOW! \$28⁹⁵ WAS: \$33.95	YUKON POTATO NOW! \$0⁹⁹ /LB WAS: \$2.69	RED CABBAGE NOW! \$1⁹⁹ /LB WAS: \$2.99
HOME BASICS - STEP LADDER 3 STEP NOW! \$49⁹⁵ WAS: \$62.95	DAHDOL - MEMORY FOAM BODY PILLOW BAMBOO 20"X54" NOW! \$21⁹⁵ WAS: \$24.95	DOG KENNEL PLASTIC NOW! \$299⁹⁵ WAS: \$389.95	DAHDOL - 4PC KING MOONLIT BEDSPREAD NOW! \$28⁹⁵ WAS: \$33.95	CANTALOUPE NOW! \$1⁹⁹ /LB WAS: \$2.49	GRANNY SMITH APPLE NOW! \$2⁴⁹ /LB WAS: \$2.89
PRIMA - LUGGAGE BLACK 4PCS NOW! \$111⁹⁵ WAS: \$139.95	WARDROBE COLLAPSABLE NOW! \$16⁹⁵ WAS: \$19.95	AF FRESH TOUCH SOFTENER SUMMER 6/67.6FL.OZ NOW! \$5¹⁹ WAS: \$7.19	AF LIQUID DETERGENT EUCALYPTUS 6/67.6FL.OZ NOW! \$5¹⁹ WAS: \$7.19	ORANGE CELLO 4LB BAG NOW! \$7⁴⁹ BAG WAS: \$8.79	YUMMY DINO BUDDIES CHICKEN BREAST NUGGETS 56 OZ NOW! \$15⁴⁹ WAS: \$17.79
CHAMPION BREED COMPLETE FORMULA 36# DOGFOOD NOW! \$34⁹⁵ WAS: \$43.95	JOHNSONVILLE CHORIZO SAUSAGE 190Z NOW! \$6⁹⁹ WAS: \$8.29	SEÑOR RICO ASSORTED GEL PARFAITS 8X3.5OZ PACKS NOW! \$6³⁹ WAS: \$7.39	HILLSHIRE FARM SMOKED SAUSAGE 14 OZ NOW! \$6⁶⁹ WAS: \$7.69	ESSENTIAL EVERYDAY SUGAR SNAP PEA STIR-FRY BLEND 16 OZ NOW! \$2⁸⁹ WAS: \$3.29	BETTY CROCKER GERMAN CHOCOLATE CAKE MIX 15.25 OZ NOW! \$3²⁹ WAS: \$3.79

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CHALLENGE SPREADABLE BUTTER W/CANOLA OIL 8 OZ NOW! \$3⁹⁹ WAS: \$4.69	BELGIOIOSO PARMESAN 5 OZ NOW! \$3⁸⁹ WAS: \$4.59	LANGERS CUCUMBER LIME WITH MINT 64 OZ NOW! \$3⁹⁹ WAS: \$4.69

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Business

Wild & Fresh opens in Garapan

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

A nurse supervisor at the Commonwealth Health Center has opened a fish stall in Garapan, not only to help better provide for his family, but also to offer healthier food choices to the community.

"We opened Wild & Fresh because of the two reasons. First, as a nurse I noticed that the number of cancer and dialysis patients are increasing. This probably is correlated to the food we eat, which is mostly frozen or with preservatives. Second, there are many people on the island who like fish but do not know how to clean or are having trouble in cleaning the fish. That is why we offer free cleaning and we even slice the fish," said CHC nurse supervisor Jordan Danao.

He named his store Wild & Fresh because "most of our products are from the wild, like fish and farm products. They're caught from the wild and brought to the store and always remain fresh."

Aside from pelagic fish and reef fish, including lobster that



MARK RABAGO

Wild & Fresh is located along Middle Road across the Mobil Oil gas station in Garapan.

are delivered fresh everyday by his fishermen friends, Danao's Wild & Fresh also sells

lumpia, hot *pandesal*, grilled seafood, and fresh coconut.

As an added service, Wild & Fresh offers free blood



MARK RABAGO

Commonwealth Health Center nurse supervisor Jordan Danao opened Wild & Fresh last March 23.

pressure and blood sugar check whenever Danao is off duty at the hospital.

As for venturing into a new business when the economy is still not fully recovered, the 44-year-old native of Bicol in the Philippines

said he has to make his own fortune and doesn't want to wait for the government to turn the economy around.

"Saipan's economy is driven by government leadership. We cannot just rely on them for the future of our family. Instead, we have to find ways how to help our family and contribute to the community," he said.

Danao, who has two children, has made the CNMI home for the past 18 years. He is a graduate of Ago Medical Educational Center.

Wild & Fresh is located along Middle Road across the Mobil Oil gas station in Garapan. It is open from Monday to Saturday, 8am-7pm. For more information, call (670) 286-4444.



MARK RABAGO

Wild & Fresh also sells fresh coconuts.

Social Security sets final rule that removes barriers to SSI payments

The Social Security Administration published yesterday a final rule, "Omitting Food from In-Kind Support and Maintenance Calculations." The final rule announces the first of several updates to the agency's Supplemental Security Income regulations that will help people receiving and applying for SSI.

"A vital part of our mission is helping people access crucial benefits, including SSI," said Martin O'Malley, commissioner of Social Security. "Simplifying our policies is a common-sense solution that reduces the burden on the public and agency staff and helps promote equity by removing barriers to accessing payments."

SSI provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness, and to adults aged 65 and older, who have limited income and resources. SSI benefits help pay for basic needs like rent, food, clothing, and medicine. People applying for and receiving SSI must meet eligibility requirements, including income and resource limits. Under our old rules, ISM includes food, shelter, or both a person receives—the agency counts ISM as unearned income, which may affect a person's eligibility or reduce their payment amount.

Under the final rule, beginning Sept. 30, 2024, the agency will no longer include

food in ISM calculations. The new policy removes a critical barrier for SSI eligibility due to an applicant's or recipient's receipt of informal food assistance from friends, family, and community networks of support. The new policy further helps in several important ways: the change is easier to understand and use by applicants, recipients, and agency employees; applicants and recipients have less information to report about food assistance received from family and friends, removing a significant source of burden; reducing month-to-month variability in payment amounts will improve payment accuracy; and the agency will see administrative savings because less time will be spent administering food ISM.

The agency continuously examines programmatic policy and makes regulatory and sub-regulatory changes as appropriate. Look for more SSI announcements in the coming weeks.

For more information on the SSI program, including who is eligible and how to apply, visit Supplemental Security Income SSA at <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi>.

To read the final rule "Omitting Food from In-Kind Support and Maintenance Calculations," visit Federal Register: Omitting Food From In-Kind Support and Maintenance Calculations. (SSA)



MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

†BOB HAJIME DELEON GUERRERO YAMAGISHI



We deeply appreciate and gratefully acknowledge everyone, both near and far, kind expression of sympathy in our time of sorrow.

†Bob will always be a part of our lives. Your attendance at the burial service, mass, and rosary gave us the courage to continue and got us through the difficult time.

We are incredibly appreciative and will always remember your thoughtfulness.

Thank you all for your love, prayers, and support

The Parents, Akiyoshi and Dolores DLG. Yamagishi and Children of our beloved †Bob Yamagishi and Families.



Your guide to safely coloring, hunting and enjoying Easter eggs



By **EVERY NEWMARK**
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

Easter is a time of celebration, marked by religious traditions infused with the colorful spring season. Central to this holiday's traditions are Easter eggs. The eggs symbolize new beginnings, tracing back to ancient spring festivals, History reports, and for Christians, these eggs are a powerful reminder of Jesus' resurrection and new life.

The art of egg decorating has a rich history, going all the way back to the 13th century, according to some sources. One explanation, according to History, is that back in the day, eggs were off-limits during Lent, so people started the custom of painting and decorating them. When Easter rolled around, people ate these eggs in a festive breaking of the fast.

Nowadays, some people opt for plastic eggs, while others prefer the authenticity of real eggs for coloring and hunting activities. If you lean toward the real thing, prioritizing safety is crucial to prevent foodborne illnesses, especially those caused by salmonella bacteria that can lurk in eggs, even those that seem clean and intact.

Michigan State University Extension provides essential tips to ensure your Easter egg festivities are enjoyable and safe for consumption.

Safety tips for Easter eggs

Always open the carton to check for cracked eggs before purchasing. Cracked eggs are more susceptible to bacterial contamination.

Wash hands thoroughly before and after handling eggs to prevent the spread of bacteria.

If you plan to eat your colored Easter eggs, use only food-grade dye.

After boiling and coloring, eggs should be returned to the refrigerator within two hours, considering the total time they're out, including for coloring and travel. Consider making two sets of eggs: one for eating and the other for hiding and decorating.

For safety, avoid consuming eggs hidden on the ground; they can gather bacteria. Protect eggs from dirt, pets and insects. Limit the hunt to two hours, and wash and refrigerate "found" eggs promptly, consuming them within seven days. Using plastic eggs filled with treats is a safer alternative for hunts.

Hard-boiled, colored Easter eggs are safe to eat if they haven't been out of refrigeration for more than two hours and are consumed within a week.

Cooked egg dishes should reach an internal temperature of 160°F, verified with a food thermometer, to ensure safety.

By adhering to these guidelines, your Easter egg coloring, hunts and celebrations can be both food-safe and enjoyable.

Easter messages of hope

By **NHORLEEN BITCO-LILLES**
SPECIAL TO SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar as it commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It celebrates life and the hope of salvation. This Easter, we asked respected leaders of our community to share their messages of hope and wishes with the community.

"As we approach the culmination of the Lent season on our islands, first lady Wella and I extend our Easter greetings to everyone throughout the Marianas. As we do in the Commonwealth every year, Easter is celebrated as

one of the most important holidays as it symbolizes the inspirational and powerful message of resilience and spiritual rebirth.

"For many families, this Easter weekend is also a time when we all reflect on the blessings in our lives and express grati-

tude for the gifts of family, friendships, and health. On Sunday, many will be gathering with loved ones—at home, by the beach, in local restaurants, or maybe even out at the farm. During these gatherings, take the opportunity to reconnect with one an-

other and recommit to the values that are at the core of Easter: love, compassion, and forgiveness. May this Easter weekend be filled with rest, meaningful reflection, and joyful memories with those you

See **EASTER** on Page 12

May the joy of Easter brighten your home and fill your heart with happiness.

HAPPY
Easter

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*May the miracle of Easter remind you of
God's eternal love and His promise of salvation.*



FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF



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EASTER

From page 11

love. And finally, may the spirit of renewal and hope that defines this season fill



your spirits and guide you throughout the year. Happy Easter, Marianas!"

—Gov. Arnold
I. Palacios

"This Good Friday and Easter Sunday, let us strengthen our faith in God and remember the valuable teachings from Jesus Christ—the message of love, compassion, and forgiveness for all mankind. Let us be mindful of everyone around us and extend our kindness

and assistance to those in need because together, we can protect and help each other to make the world a better place. To all the first responders, front-line workers, service men and women, all those who are far away from home during this holy season, you are in our thoughts



and prayers. May the celebration of Easter this year bring peace and happiness to you and your loved ones. Happy Easter!"

—Lt. Gov. David
M. Apatang

"On this very holy day, let us remember the immense sacrifice our Lord took for the salvation of all us. Let the joy and spirit of

the resurrection lift up all those who are struggling and in despair. May those who have been touched by the Holy Spirit spread



the good word to others in that they may celebrate the love of our Father in Heaven. We are all joined together to celebrate the resurrection of the Savior. We have all been blessed and saved by His sacrifice of His only son, which has cleansed us all of our sins. I hope this Easter finds you and your loved ones filled with a sense of peace and reverence. May you all have a blessed Easter!

—Mayor Ramon
"RB" Camacho

Saipan
See EASTER on Page 13

In this season of rebirth, may your faith be renewed and
your heart made new with the hope Easter brings.

HE IS RISEN
Happy Easter

From the management and staff of
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

EASTER

From page 12

"Hafa adai yan tirow Marianas, As we celebrate the joyous occasion of Easter, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to every one of you. May this joyous and special Easter occasion be a time for renewal and hope, inspiring unity, and compassion amongst all. As the mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, I am constantly inspired by



our people's resilience and cooperation. By standing together, we have overcome many challenging obstacles with strength and determination, which has led us to be more resilient and united than ever before. This Easter, let us continue to support one another, remain compassionate and understanding, and commit to building a brighter future for our beautiful islands. From our homes to yours, we wish you a blessed and Happy Easter!"

—Mayor
Edwin P. Aldan
Tinian and Aguiguan

"As we celebrate Easter, let us take a moment to reflect on the values that unite us as a community. Easter reminds us of the importance of com-



passion, forgiveness, and service to others. May these values guide us in strengthening the bonds of friendship and coop-

eration within our island. As mayor, I am filled with optimism for the future of our island. With the spirit of Easter as our guide, let us move forward with renewed hope dedication to building a brighter tomorrow, together. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous and blessed Easter!"

—Mayor Aubry Hocog
Rota

"Hafa adai yan tirow CNMI! As we celebrate Easter, let us take a moment to reflect on hope, renewal, and unity. During our busy lives, Easter provides us with an opportunity to pause, reconnect, and cherish the blessings of family and loved ones. It is a time to come together, share in moments of joy and gratitude, and reaffirm the unity that brings us together as a family and as a community. As

we gather with our loved ones to celebrate, may this Easter serve as a reminder of the boundless love and kindness in our lives and spread that to others with each opportunity we get. On behalf of the Saipan



Chamber of Commerce, our members, board of directors, and staff, we wish the entire community a joyous Easter filled with peace, happiness, and cherished moments with your family and loved ones. Happy Easter, CNMI!

Si yu'us ma'asi' yan ghiliso!"
—Kimberly C. Camacho
Executive director, Saipan Chamber of Commerce

Historically, Easter is a religious holy day commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's a time of hope and salvation, a time



to gather as friends and family to celebrate the risen Christ. It marks the end of Lent, which is traditionally a time of penance for Roman Catholics.

—Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing director, Marianas Visitors Authority

"Easter is for the believer, the unbeliever, the well, the broken, the found, the lost, the peaceful, the troubled, the healthy, the addict, the free, the convict, the welcomed, and the outcast. May the love and hope that is symbolized



by Easter fill each heart this holy day as we commemorate the death and

live-giving resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—Catherine Perry
Program director/host,
Northern Marianas Humanities Council


"Easter to me is the ultimate gift from God to the faithful in that through



Jesus's death and resurrection, people are offered second chances, redemption, forgiveness, symbolizing the opportunity for a new beginning."

—Serafina Rosario
King-Nabors

HE HAS RISEN




As we celebrate the miracle of His resurrection, we also celebrate the joy of His abiding presence in our lives.

MAY YOUR EASTER AND ALL YOUR DAYS BE BLESSED WITH HIS WONDERFUL LOVE.

"...It is true!
The Lord has risen..."
Luke 24:34 (NIV)

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May this Easter bring
you renewed faith,
hope, and love.

Happy
Easter

From the management and staff of



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Memorial for Navajo code talkers, NMI marine scouts pushed

The leadership of the 17th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council recently endorsed the funding request of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to install a permanent commemorative memorial court of honor for the Marianas marine scouts and the Navajo code talkers, in appreciation for the ultimate sacrifice by these two groups in the Battle of Saipan: Operation Forager from June 15 to July 9, 1944, by the code talkers and from August 1944 to September 1945 by some 50 Chamorro and Carolinian marine scouts recruited by the U.S. Marines.

On Aug. 14, 1982, over 30 years later following the Battle of Saipan, U.S. President Ronald Regan declared National Navajo Code Talkers Day, saying the code talkers played an instrumental role in the Pacific War from 1942 to 1945.

A little over 50 years later, on Jan. 31, 2000, Robert Underwood, who was the Guam delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, stood and eloquently delivered before the U.S. House of Representatives a rousing "At Last America Remembers Marianas Scouts" speech, naming by their full names the stewards of peace in the Battle of Saipan's Operation Forager (Ignacio Reyes Ada, Antonio M. Aguon, Antonio Angailen, Pedro SN. Attao, Santiago Miyasaki Babauta, Antonio Manahane, Benavente, Juan

V. Benavente, Daniel T. Borja, Gregorio Flores Borja, Gregorio Camacho Cabrera, Juan Camacho Cabrera, Albert S. Camacho, Lorenzo Tudela Camacho, Cristino S. Dela Cruz, Joaquin Duenas Dela Cruz, Bernardo C. Deleon Guerrero, Joaquin C. Deleon Guerrero, Jose S. Deleon Guerrero, Lorenzo Diaz Deleon Guerrero, Serafin Borja Kaipat, Juan Limes, Rafael C. Mafnas, Jose Blas Magofna, Miguel Blaz Magofna, Pedro Mettao, Nicolas Quidachai Muna, Francisco Nekai, Juan Quitugua Norita, Isidro Limes Ogarto, Francisco C. Palacios, Joaquin B. Pangelian, Juan San Nicolas Pangelian, Edward M. Peter, Jose Roberto Quitano, Benigno A. Rabauliman, Antonio T. Rogolofoi, Isidro R. Rogopes, Vicente T. Rosario, Ignacio Mangarero Sablan, Segundo Tudela Sablan, Herberto San Nicolas, Pedro F. Sakisat, Felipe Agulto Salas, Gofredo Aguon Sanchez, Juan A. Sanchez, Guillermo P. Saures, Felipe Mazinnis Seman, Juan Malus Tagabuel, Benedicto Satur Taisacan, Antonio Camacho Tenorio, Antonio P. Tenorio, Vicente Olaitiman Taman, Miguel Pangelinan Tenorio, Pedro Peter Teregeyo, and Manuel Seman Villagomez).

In a letter of support to Carmen G. Cantor, assistant secretary for the Office of Insular and International Affairs, the Saipan council leadership un-

derscored the role of the code talkers as pivotal in their enigmatic way of encoding messages that literally confused the Japanese command post on the location of the U.S. soldiers and the direction Operation Forager was headed, and pivoted the manner in which World War II ended in the Battle of Saipan.

For their part, after the major bombardment on Saipan by the combined forces of the U.S. Marines, Army and Navy, a few carefully vetted local civilians were conscripted into the U.S. Marine battalion: their singular duty

was to ensure the continuing safety of U.S. soldiers and local civilians following Operation Forager. These civilian marines were chosen by the U.S. Marines because of their insights and knowledge on Japanese military hideouts in tunnels and caves, including the locations of the Japanese gun emplacements, no less their familiarity of the terrains throughout Saipan and fluency in the Japanese language.

The local council leadership is joined by former governor Juan N. Babauta, a former CNMI Washington representative and author-publisher of

Now for Then: The Marianas Marine Scouts, who said: "As a former Washington representative and former CNMI governor, I stand shoulder-to-shoulder with...Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' funding assistance for the permanent installation of a well-deserved court of honor for the Navajo Code Talkers and the Marianas Marine Scouts on Saipan at the American Memorial Park or other suitable locations on Saipan."

John "Liling" S. Reyes, a former member of the CNMI House of Representatives, also stated: "I wholeheartedly support [Palacios] in requesting funding to emplace a permanent court of honor

in commemorative remembrance of the Marianas Marine Scouts and the Navajo Code Talkers. ...I, too, stand shoulder-to-shoulder with [Palacios' request for] funding assistance for the permanent installation of a well-deserved court of honor."

Herman B. Cabrera of H.B. Cabrera and Associates, a local architect and community developer, also urge support for Palacios' funding request to Cantor, saying, "I stand ready, willing and able to contribute my talents and resources toward the design of Governor Palacios' court of honor for the Navajo Code Talkers and the Marianas Marine Scouts." (PR)

New system to streamline criminal information now in planning stage

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency is gearing up to apply for a grant to develop the CNMI's very own Criminal Justice Information Systems, a system that would streamline vital criminal information that will be accessible to all law enforcement agencies in the CNMI.

The CJP met with local broadband networks and law enforcement agencies last Wednesday for a preliminary discussion about the establishment of the CJIS.

According to CJP member Anthony Torres, who also chairs the CJIS grant project, although the project is still in the discussion phase, establishing CJIS would be a game changer for the CNMI.

"It's crucial in our Commonwealth for something like that to be implemented. For the Department of Corrections specifically, it's going to help with inmate management, biometric identification, criminal history, communication, and information sharing between all law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth. Not just in the Commonwealth, but also branching out to Guam, Hawaii, and the rest of

the mainland. As an example, if someone tried to come out here to flee arrest, with the CJIS system we would know right off the bat that there is a warrant out for their arrest. It would also help with compliance and reporting so this CJIS is huge for the CNMI," he said.

Torres said CJP and its partners are currently in the process of developing a plan for the establishment of CJIS.

"Right now, we're gathering all the information technology specialists together to formulate a game plan and do an inventory of our needs to get an application together and apply for this grant," he said.

Ultimately, Torres said, the CJIS would help further protect the CNMI community, while holding accountable those who need to be held accountable.

"Imagine, as an example, that someone gets pulled over and [the police] run their ID. The police would know immediately that person's rap sheet. It could prevent instances where wanted individuals are able to flee the island. Having something like CJIS could mitigate all that. At the end of the day, it's protecting the community and holding people accountable," he said.

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of

Rosa Aldan Ichihara

"Chai"

June 16, 1951 - March 22, 2024

Of Chalan Kanoa was called home by Our Heavenly Father at the age of 72.

In her new life, Chai now reunites with her:

Father and Mother: †Jose San Miguel Ichihara and †Teresa Aldan Ichihara
Sister: †Dolores Ichihara Marciano
Brother: †Vicente Aldan Ichihara
Daughter: †Julie Jaqueline Ichihara Norita
Son: †Juan Ichihara
Brother-In-Law: †Ricardo Rasiang Marciano

Baptismal Godmother: †Isabel Blanco Matsunaga
Baptismal Godfather: †Ramon Blanco Matsunaga
Rosa's Love and Memories will be missed and cherished forever in the hearts of her

Children:
Virginia Norita Taijeron & Children
Ernestina Norita & †Rufino N. Maratita, Children, & Grandchildren
Edward Junior M. Norita & Therese Olandez & Children
Augustine M. & Mingshoon Li Norita, Children, & Grandchildren
Joseph Edward Ichihara Norita
Arl Patrick Ichihara Norita & Elysian M. Chargualaf & Children
Theresa Elizabeth Ichihara & †Peter "Sonny" Perez Rosario & Children
John Vincent Ichihara & Judith Sablan Torres
Angel Joe Ichihara & Bettina Mai & Son

Brothers, Sisters, Brothers-In-Law, Sisters-In-Law:
Jose Aldan & Rosa Indalecio Ichihara
Ignacio Aldan Ichihara & Jesusa Contreras
Juan Aldan & Brigida Deleon Guerrero Ichihara
Carmen "Diane" Crisostomo Ichihara
Maria Aldan Ichihara & Quing Sui
Jesse Paul Aldan & Esther Ichihara

She will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Mass for her reposed soul is being offered daily at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am. On Monday, April 01, 2024 at 7:45 a.m. she will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 a.m. followed by Interment Services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'asi and Thank You

From

The Children, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, and Family

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Asleep at the controls: As Boeing bosses leave, scrutiny must continue

After an embarrassing and potentially dangerous bungling atop of the iconic American aerospace company, culminating in the grounding of hundreds of aircraft following a door plug blowing off a 737 MAX 9 mid-flight, Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun is stepping down.

Also heading for the exits are Board Chair Larry Kellner and Boeing Commercial Airplanes CEO Stan Deal, an exodus that will make way for new blood at a company that fumbled one of the hardest-earned reputations for excellence in the country's history.

The door plug incident follows a pattern of outsourcing and sloppiness driven by a desire to increase the stock price at all costs, a culture some at the company trace to a 1997 merger that set the company off a track that prioritized engineering prowess.

Calhoun, not incidentally, is not himself some aeronautic engineering genius, but trained as an accountant. He previously served as a senior managing partner at the gigantic private equity firm—and leveraged buyout pioneer—Blackstone Group, a perch from which he knew well companies' balance sheets, not the airworthiness of their airliners.

Of course, we shouldn't suggest that the CEO isn't intricately familiar with some forms of aerospace engineering; he's no doubt adept at understanding parachutes, namely the golden parachute he probably has waiting to bail out of the company he's nosedived.

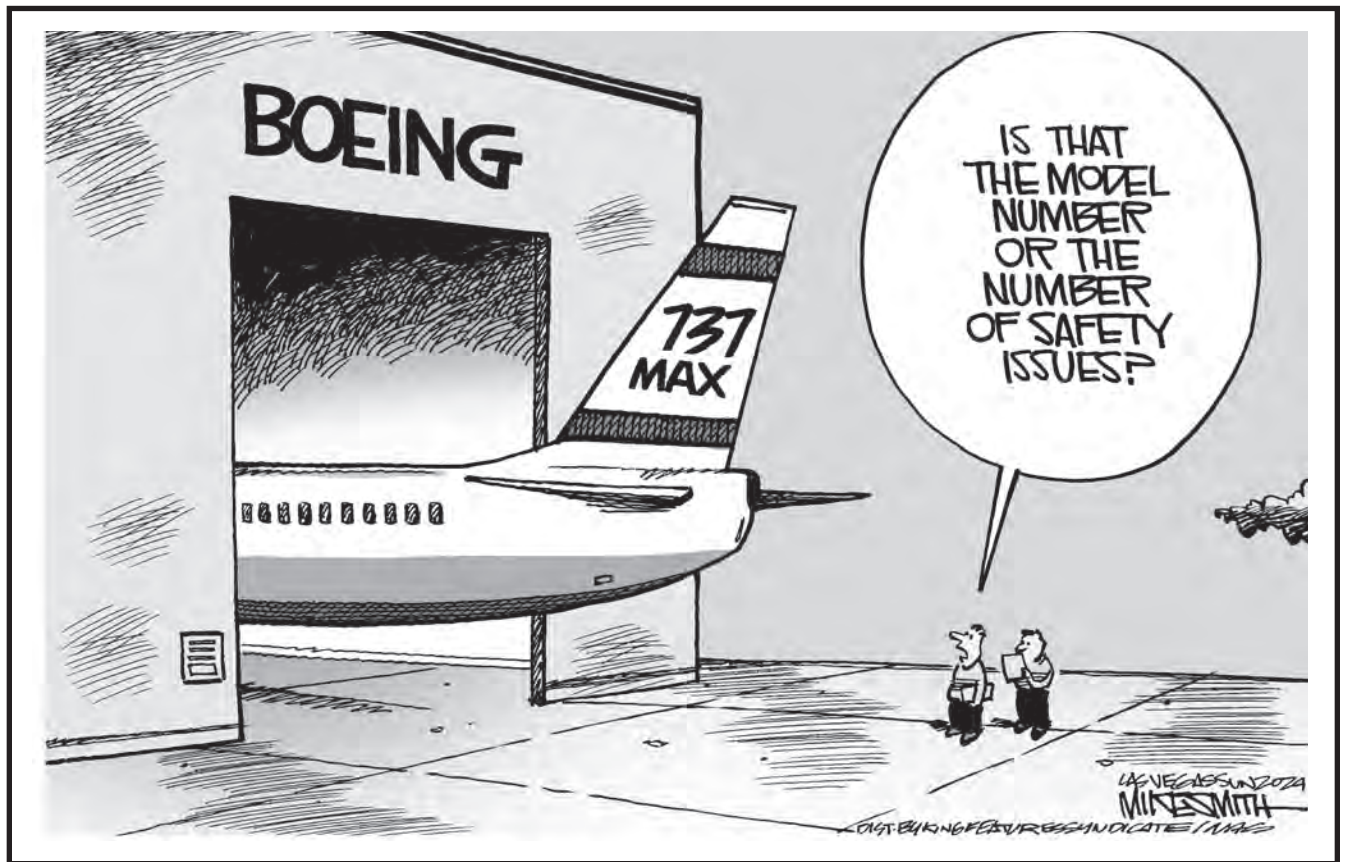
Like so many next-quarter-obsessed executives before them, the bounced Boeing executives and board chair won't expect to pay any penalties for their mismanagement. While many professionals see their pay and their ability to switch jobs tethered to their performance, that paradigm breaks down when you reach the C-suite, where CEOs are free to run companies aground before simply jumping to the next one with a massive payout.

Where once the lion's share of company CEOs had risen through the ranks, this is the era of career executives who jump from industry to industry, not understanding nor having to understand the actual business beyond numbers on a spreadsheet.

This all works in tandem with regulatory agencies that are overwhelmed, constrained by aggressive interfering courts, outgunned by corporate lobbyists and increasingly reliant on self-policing within industries ranging from aerospace to poultry. The rest of us are left with the consequences, in this case the reality of a significant chunk of the commercial jetliner fleet that has serious safety concerns.

Hopefully, the management change at Boeing will improve outcomes, but we can't rely on them to come around on their own when the public's safety is at stake. That nobody was killed or seriously injured in the door plug incident is a miracle—something that can't be said for the infamous 737 MAX crashes of 2018 and 2019, which killed 346 people, after the company hastened the rollout of its new system.

See ASLEEP on Page 17



Don't count on the United Nations to stop bloodshed in Gaza

The United Nations Security Council, the U.N.'s most important body, is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. If there is a threat to the peace, the Security Council is supposed to meet, deliberate and adopt measures to curtail aggression and safeguard international law. It's a weighty responsibility for any country represented on the panel, particularly for the permanent members—the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia and China—most associated with the panel's procedures.

That's the ideal, anyway. In reality, the Security Council isn't some magnanimous organization with a common platform, but rather a collection of individual states with their own self-interests. Arguments ensue, fingers are pointed, and blame is cast—and the result is often deadlock. The Security Council is less a happy family and more like an estranged one forced to be under the same roof for a few hours on Thanksgiving Day. Sure enough, the insults flow, and the food flies.

This dynamic is nothing new for the Security Council. But the world has witnessed it vividly with respect to Israel's latest war against Hamas in Gaza, which has claimed more than 32,000 Palestinian lives and turned most of the enclave into ruins. And it may have already pushed some parts of northern Gaza into famine. On Friday, the U.S. tabled a draft resolution at the Security Council that condemned all acts of terrorism, called on all parties to obey international humanitarian law and emphasized the importance of establishing a cease-fire. For President Joe Biden's administration, the effort was a common-sense approach to back up the ongoing diplomacy U.S. officials are conducting alongside Qatar and Egypt to accomplish a truce and get the remaining hostages out of Gaza.

Yet for others, the U.S.-drafted initiative was a cynical ploy that called for a cease-fire without explicitly doing so. The language the U.S. chose to use—"Determines the imperative of an immediate and sustained cease-fire"—was viewed by Russia and China as mealy-mouthed at best and cynical at worst. "The US draft is a thoroughly politicized document, which only aims at pulling on voters' heartstrings before the US elections by throwing them a 'bone' in the form of at least some mention of a 'ceasefire' in Gaza," Russia's U.N. ambassador said after casting his vote.

The U.S. delegation was furious after Moscow and Beijing blocked passage. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield accused both of opposing the resolution because it was drafted by the U.S. There is some merit to the argument; Moscow relishes its status as the spoiler of U.S.-led initiatives. Yet U.S. officials are kidding themselves if they think they're in the clear here. It was only weeks ago when Washington vetoed yet another Security Council resolution that demanded an immediate humanitarian cease-fire, rejected the forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza and demanded the unconditional release of hostages by Hamas—items that U.S. officials ostensibly want to accomplish.

To the outside observer, none of this makes much sense. Yet to members of that gargantuan U.N. bureaucracy, these antics are par

By **DANIEL DEPETRIS**

Chicago Tribune

Daniel DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.



for the course. Countries quibble over words, the construction of sentences and the meaning of certain terms, even as civilians thousands of miles away are dying from bombs, bullets and starvation. The war in Gaza is hardly the first time the Security Council has been unable to get on the same page. Of the 10 draft resolutions on the war tabled at the panel, only three have been adopted. For the international aid workers trying to get basic supplies into Gaza up to and including the U.N. secretary-general himself, such a situation is almost unforgivable.

Even so, it shouldn't be surprising. As much as die-hard supporters of the U.N. like to paint the organization in the most idealized terms, the body as a whole is governed by realpolitik, conflicting interests and different agendas. While it may be hard to believe, this is a feature of the U.N. system, not a bug. Indeed, it's highly unlikely the great powers emerging from the ashes of World War II would have agreed to establish such a system otherwise. No country is going to voluntarily sign away its sovereignty, especially if those countries possess significant military power and large economies. There is no such thing as global governance. As international relations scholars such as Hans Morgenthau and Kenneth Waltz argued long ago, the world exists in a state of anarchy. Individual states can't rely on anybody but themselves to safeguard their prerogatives.

Viewed this way, we make a big mistake assuming the U.N. can rid the world of tyranny, war and poverty. Expecting the organization to do so isn't fair. The U.N. can do quite a lot to alleviate conflict and address disasters, but none of it is possible unless the states that make up the U.N. system agree to do so.

What does this mean for the men, women and children who are currently living in crowded, makeshift refugee camps, trekking through rubble to see whether their homes have been destroyed or sheltering on hospital grounds? Unfortunately, nothing good. The war will continue for the foreseeable future, regardless of how productive the Security Council is. (Before this column went to press, the body passed a resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire during Ramadan.)

In the grand scheme, the war between Israel and Hamas won't end in the great hall of the U.N. Security Council chamber. It will end when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu decides to end it. Given his repeated commitment to send the Israeli army into Rafah, which is now teeming with more than 1 million Palestinian refugees, the smart bet is that operations won't stop anytime soon.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Green spaces, memorable places

A few years ago, the Marianas Visitors Authority conducted an exit survey of visitors leaving the islands. One of the important questions we asked them was, what was the No. 1 activity they had expected to undertake during their visit to the Marianas? Overwhelmingly, the answer was, “Enjoy nature.”

If enjoying nature is the top expectation of visitors to the Marianas, we have to ask ourselves: What are we doing to prioritize, plan, and ensure the preservation and enhancement of nature, especially our old-growth trees? Certainly, there are steps that have been taken in the right direction. These include the establishment of the Marpi Commonwealth Forest, Managaha Marine Conservation Area, Bird Island Marine Sanctuary, Sabana Protected Area, Tinian Marine Reserve, Forbidden Island Marine Sanctuary, and other protected areas. Another good model is the prioritization of Environmental Sustainability—alongside Economic Sustainability and Social Equity—as part of the CNMI’s Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan.

Yet we must admit that, in most cases, the preservation of nature is often not considered when it comes to public and private land development. In the heart of our villages and along our roadways, mature and old-growth trees are routinely cut down with no thought for incorporating them into construction design, transplanting them, or even planting new trees if existing ones must be removed. Slowly, many of our more populated areas are becoming more like concrete jungles, separating people from the soil and shade that have sustained

us for thousands of years. But just imagine the destination we could create if nature preservation was a key element in all our construction design and not a mere afterthought.

The American Planning Association cites three ways to preserve and protect trees: (1) planning to include and encourage trees in the community; (2) active promotion of tree planting and preservation by business and civic groups and community officials; and (3) regulations to ensure provision of public trees and to prevent excessive cutting of trees on private property.

For an excellent example of the second point, we can look to the ongoing work of Mayor Aubry Hocog and the community of Rota, on a mission to plant multitudes of trees—especially fruit trees—across the island for both residents and visitors to enjoy. What an experience it will be for visitors to freely pick and enjoy fresh fruit from trees in parks and roadsides when visiting Rota. The MVA was able to incorporate this forward-thinking community initiative into our first ever Rota Marathon in January 2024, inviting racers to participate in a tree-planting ceremony at the Rota Roundhouse in Songsong village as part of the formal race events. Activities such as this tie back to the No. 1 activity visitors anticipate when visiting—enjoying nature. More so, with today’s trend toward travelling more mindfully and enabling sustainable travel, visitors are looking for ways to give back to the communities they travel to in meaningful, environmentally conscious ways. Tree-planting is an excellent way to build that relationship and a connection to com-

MAKING TOURISM OUR BUSINESS

By **CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Christopher A. Concepcion is managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

munity that today’s traveller is desiring.

Each year, the MVA and the Marianas Tourism Education Council visit public schools across the islands to teach schoolchildren about the tourism industry and how they can engage with it, even at a young age. Under this year’s theme “Green Spaces, Memorable Places,” we invite students to close their eyes and imagine their favorite place in nature. What do you see? Hear? Feel? And most importantly, how does that place make you feel? Whether it be the lapping of waves on the shore or the sound of birds in the trees, the peaceful feeling that comes from being close to nature is what we want every visitor to walk away with after their visit to our islands.

Historian, activist, and explorer Robert Swan once said, “The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.” For the sake of visitors and residents today and in future generations, we will collectively gain by prioritizing the preservation and development of “green spaces” in our populated areas of the Marianas.

The US just fired a first diplomatic shot at Israel

“Abstention” is a deceptively diplomatic word, implying some sort of bureaucratic omission. And yet this week’s decision by the US to abstain from casting its veto in the United Nations Security Council turned a page in history. For the first time since the terrorist attack by Hamas against Israel on Oct. 7—and after nixing three previous draft resolutions to this effect—Washington has allowed the council to call for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

And so the US-Israeli relationship, long among the world’s tightest bilateral bonds, keeps fraying beyond recognition. In December, I predicted that President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin “Bibi” Netanyahu would break first gradually, then suddenly. Well, suddenly just came a lot closer.

The Biden administration tried to talk the abstention down, saying that there had been no “shift in policy” and pointing out that the resolution also calls for the release of all hostages. But Bibi was still irate enough to cancel a trip by an Israeli delegation to Washington that was meant to patch things. And yet his own war tactics and missing peace strategy forced the US and UN to reach this point (the other 14 members of the Security Council all voted in favor).

The Netanyahu government’s bombing of the Gaza Strip has, as Biden put it, been “indiscriminate” at times. Its facilitation of humanitarian aid has been inadequate. And its plans to invade the city of Rafah seem reckless. More than a million Gazan civilians, having fled their homes, are huddling there, alongside the remaining Hamas fighters that Israel wants (and ought) to eliminate. But a full-bore assault on Rafah would cause another humanitarian catastrophe, which is why Vice President Kamala Harris was the latest cabinet member to warn off Netanyahu. She’s “ruling out nothing” if Bibi still goes ahead, she added. With the death toll in Gaza above 32,000 and rising, and famine imminent, the US seems finally to have drawn a red line.

If there was a psychological tipping point stateside, it came this month, when America’s highest-ranking elected official of Jewish faith, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, found controversial but moving words for this historical moment. Israel “cannot survive if it becomes a pariah,” he said, adding that

Netanyahu increasingly conflates his personal interests with Israel’s. So Israel should hold new elections, Schumer suggested. The senator left no doubt that he hopes a new Israeli government will exclude far-right extremists such as those in Netanyahu’s coalition, and will instead join the US in working toward Palestinian statehood as the means to achieving peace one day.

Netanyahu and his American allies on the Republican right howled at what they called interference in the democratic politics of an ally. That’s rich coming from Bibi, who’s spent much of the past three decades trying to manipulate US politics. He’s long cultivated links to the evangelical and nationalist American right. In 2015, he took up a Republican invitation to address a joint session of Congress in a snub to Barack Obama, the Democratic president at the time, who demonstratively failed to invite Bibi to the White House on the occasion. Now there’s talk again of Netanyahu coming to address Congress. Many Democrats this time say they’ll boycott the speech.

The reality is that US and Israeli politics have been intertwined for a long time, and if one side wants to address the electorate of the other, the privilege must extend in the opposite direction as well. So let Bibi talk directly to Americans, and Schumer or Biden to Israelis.

Even such back-and-forth, though, can’t distract from the fundamental asymmetry in the relationship. It’s Israel that needs the US, not the other way around. The Jewish state relies on American diplomatic protection at the UN, the International Court of Justice and other institutions, and it needs American money, shells and bombs. The US, for its part, can’t indefinitely supply those weapons if it then sees them dropped on Gazan combatants and civilians alike, in what may, according to non-governmental organizations, be violations of international humanitarian as well as US law.

And so the two governments appear to have boxed themselves in. Netanyahu last week told Secretary of State Antony Blinken that Israel will invade Rafah, and that “if necessary, we will do it alone,” even without US support. Such a campaign would contravene repeated messages from the White House, and now also the Security Council’s call for a ceasefire. If that act went uncensored, it would

By **ANDREAS KLUTH**

Bloomberg Opinion



Andreas Kluth is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering US diplomacy, national security and geopolitics. Previously, he was editor-in-chief of Handelsblatt Global and a writer for the Economist.

make international law and the United Nations, which the US once helped build and which has already lost credibility, irrelevant. The US might as well walk away from its entire postwar legacy.

This is the tragedy of the moment. By the looks of it, Netanyahu will soon give the order to attack Rafah, killing more terrorists but also causing even worse suffering for the two million civilians in the Gaza Strip, and even more isolation of Israel in the world. The US will then have to answer, by restricting arms shipments and letting the UN condemn Israel. When that time comes, the US may not even abstain.

ASLEEP

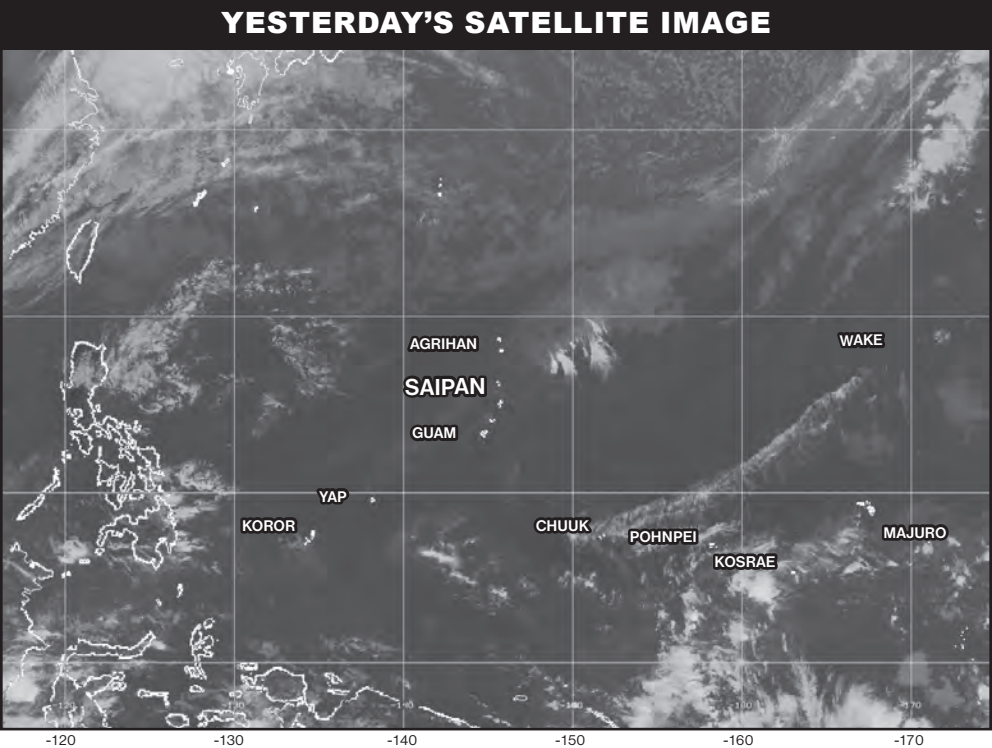
From page 16

The Federal Aviation Administration’s scrutiny of Boeing should continue, and more broadly, policymakers and legislators should take the company’s continuous debacles over the past few years as a sign that the promise of industry self-regulation is a farce.

So should the U.S. Supreme Court, which is currently setting its sights on the so-called Chevron deference, a legal doctrine allowing regulators to use agency expertise to interpret the law, and whose absence could prove disastrous. Regulators need flexibility and funding to do their jobs properly, for all our benefit.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of light showers.	
87	76°	87	76°	86	76°	86	76°	86	76°



Partly cloudy skies dominate most of the region, with slightly higher coverage of clouds near Guam, which will be short-lived based on satellite trends. Seas are in the 4 to 6 foot range.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	89° / 81°	
Chuuk	Cloudy	89° / 82°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	89° / 79°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Cloudy	85° / 82°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:14 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:11 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:28 AM	9:44 PM
Saturday	-	9:12 AM	10:39 PM
Sunday	-	10:00 AM	11:37 PM
Monday	-	10:55 AM	-
Tuesday	12:36 AM	11:54 AM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Light Rain/Wind	73° / 57°	
Beijing	Fair/Wind	59° / 47°	
Hong Kong	Fair	78° / 69°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	80° / 69°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 36°	
Los Angeles	Clear	69° / 51°	
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	97° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	70° / 54°	
Miami	Sunny	82° / 74°	
New York	Showers in the Vicinity	49° / 42°	
Osaka	Cloudy	64° / 43°	
Paris	Rain	56° / 45°	
Busan	Rain	57° / 50°	
Rome	Showers	61° / 46°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 59°	
San Francisco	Showers	54° / 48°	
Seoul	Cloudy	61° / 47°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	60° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	48° / 45°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:24 AM	Low Tide	0.77	
8:55 AM	High Tide	1.74	
3:46 PM	Low Tide	0.14	
10:11 PM	High Tide	1.69	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2024							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3462	08:00AM	1:30PM	Daily Feb 7-16 only
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
				7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.					
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024					
SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Life & Style

Banksy tree mural in London is fenced off after vandalism

LONDON (AP)—It was nice while it lasted.

An environmentally themed mural by elusive street artist Banksy that appeared last week on a London street has been encased in plastic and surrounded by fencing after an apparent act of vandalism.

The work is on a four-story wall near a public housing project. Beside a real and severely pruned cherry tree, the artist stenciled a small figure holding a pressure hose. Swathes of green paint across the wall stand in for the tree's absent leaves.

The work quickly attracted crowds including Banksy fans from around the world. Two days later, it was splashed with white paint.

The mural was then covered in transparent plastic by the building's owner, and a sign appeared saying the area was under video surveillance.

On Wednesday, workers began to erect wooden boards around the site.

The local authority, Islington Council, said it was fencing off the site to protect the art and residents from the impact of visitors.

"We've had a lot of concerns from our residents about disruption from the numbers of visitors to the artwork, which is right outside their homes," the council said in a statement. It said the fencing would include clear plastic panels "to protect the artwork and allow clear views."

Banksy, who has never confirmed his full identity, began his career spray-painting buildings in Bristol, England, and has become one of the world's best-known artists.

His work has sold for millions of dollars at auction, and past murals on outdoor sites have often been stolen or removed by building owners soon after going up. In December, after Banksy stenciled military drones on a stop sign in south London, a man was photographed taking down the sign with bolt cutters. Police later arrested two men on suspicion of theft and criminal damage.

The latest work would be harder to take down since the piece relies on the tree for its impact.



AP
Boarding is put up next to the Banksy artwork on the side of a residential building in Hornsey Road, north London, Wednesday March 27, 2024 which has been covered in perspex sheeting for protection.

Islington Council said it would monitor the site and "continue to explore future solutions with the building owner so people can enjoy the artwork."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Bruce Springsteen returns to the stage in Phoenix after health issues postponed his 2023 world tour

PHOENIX (AP)—Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band returned to the stage Tuesday evening at the Footprint Center in Phoenix in a triumphant reboot of the Boss' postponed 2023 world tour. In September Springsteen, 74, announced his tour would be delayed until 2024, citing doctor's advice as he recovered from peptic ulcer disease. "The Boss" arrived on stage to an audience chorus of "Bruuuuce!" Wearing dark jeans and a rolled up red plaid flannel shirt, he had the energy of a man half his age. His signature "One, two, three, four" was the only thing that separated most songs, showing no signs of his illness from the previous year. Once he shouted, "Good evening, Arizona" the show was off and running. Springsteen spoke to the crowd briefly about his illness prior to playing his final song "I'll See You In My Dreams" solo on stage. "Phoenix, first I want to apologize if there was any discom-

fort because we had to move the show last time. . . . I hope we didn't inconvenience you too much."

Beyoncé shares 'Cowboy Carter' track list ahead of album, mentions Dolly Parton and Willie Nelson

Buckle up, cowpoke: On Wednesday, Beyoncé shared the track list for her forthcoming album, "Act II: Cowboy Carter." "Cowboy Carter" arrives Friday, but fans got a sneak peek on the superstar's Instagram account, when she shared an image that appears to include the titles of her songs: from the previously released "Texas Hold 'Em" and "16 Carriages," now including "American Requiem," "Blackbird," "Protector," "My Rose," "Bodyguard," "Daughter," "Spaghetti," "Alligator Tears," "Smoke Hour II," "Just For Fun," "Il Most Wanted," "Levi's Jeans," "Flamenco," "Ya Ya," "Oh Louisiana," "Desert Eagle," "Riverdance," "Il Hands Il Heaven," "Tyrant," "Sweet Honey Buckin," and "Amen." One song appears to be called "The Linda Mar-

tell Show," a reference to the groundbreaking country performer who became the first Black woman to play the Grand Ole Opry. There's also mention of "Dolly P"—likely a reference to Dolly Parton—and a track titled "Jolene," a reference to one of Parton's best-known songs. (AP)

No police charges for Taylor Swift's dad over paparazzi incident in Sydney

SYDNEY (AP)—Taylor Swift's father will not be charged over a paparazzi photographer's claim that Scott Swift assaulted him on the Sydney waterfront hours after the pop star's Australian tour ended last month. Photographer Ben McDonald had alleged that one of Swift's security guards forced an umbrella into his face and camera and that Scott Swift then punched him at the Neutral Bay Wharf, where the father and daughter had just come ashore from a yacht Feb. 27. Taylor Swift's representatives responded by accusing members of the media of aggression during the interaction. Police began investigating the incident at the time

and announced Wednesday that "no further police action" would be taken. "No offences were detected, and the investigation was concluded with no further police action required," said the statement from the New South Wales Police Force.

Illinois Supreme Court to hear actor Jussie Smollett appeal of conviction for staging racist attack

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—The Illinois Supreme Court will hear an appeal of actor Jussie Smollett's disorderly conduct conviction for staging a racist and homophobic attack against himself in 2019, then lying to Chicago police about it. The court on Wednesday accepted the appeal from Smollett, formerly a cast member of the television drama "Empire." It will review a December state appellate court ruling that upheld his 2021 conviction by a Cook County jury. The case kicked up an international uproar and produced an intensive manhunt by Chicago police detectives. There is no date set for the high court to hear arguments in the matter.

Did UK hospital staff try to snoop on Princess Kate's medical records?

LONDON (AP)—A British privacy watchdog said Wednesday it was investigating a report that staff at a private London hospital tried to snoop on the Princess of Wales' medical records while she was a patient for abdominal surgery.

The Information Commissioner's Office said: "We can confirm that we have received a breach report and are assessing the information provided."

The Daily Mirror newspaper reported that at least one staff member at the London Clinic tried to look at Kate's notes during her stay there in January. The princess had surgery at the clinic in central London on Jan. 16 and was discharged almost two weeks later.

Kensington Palace, the office of Kate and husband Prince William, said that the report was "a matter for the London Clinic."

Al Russell, the hospital's chief executive, said Wednesday that "all appropriate investigatory, regulatory and disciplinary steps will be taken."

"There is no place at our hospital for those who intentionally breach the trust of any of our patients or colleagues," he said in a statement.

Health Minister Maria Caulfield said that police had been asked to look into the matter.

"Whether they take action is a matter for them," she told LBC radio.

"But the Information Commissioner can also take prosecutions," she added. "So there are particularly hefty implications if you are looking at notes for medical records that you should not be looking at."

Relationship with friend flows only one direction

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who talks nonstop. Honestly, I can put the phone down and go make a cup of tea, and she'll still be talking when I get back. I don't think she even takes a breath. I want to tell her she sometimes needs to ask questions or seek the opinions of others. How can I do this without hurting her feelings?

She has many good qualities. She's knowledgeable on many topics, she's artistic and she's a good cook. She is just exhausting to be around. I feel bad for her and her husband. Her children are good, productive citizens. But man, oh man, I dread getting a call from her. Advice?

OVERWHELMED IN GEORGIA

DEAR OVERWHELMED: There's a reason why you are drained after those phone calls. Your friend is a compulsive talker and a "sapper." (A sapper is someone who gains energy by draining it from others.) The next time she calls, have a stopwatch handy and make a note of the length of time she rambles on and on. Then point out that although she may be unaware of it, she talked at you for (insert number) minutes.

Then suggest she dial it back and consider asking an occasional question and including you in the conversation, because what she has been doing is exhausting. She may not

like what you are saying, but she really needs to hear it.

P.S. Consider screening your calls so that if you don't have the energy to talk with the woman, you can avoid listening to her.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are planning a cruise to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary as well as his retirement next year. We invited my brother and his wife, "Rita," to join us. Because my brother has always wanted to visit our cruise destination, they accepted.

Rita then shared our cruise plans with her brother and his wife, "Jewel." Jewel expressed interest in the destination and said she wouldn't mind going. In response, Rita welcomed them to join us! When I was told this, Rita said her brother doesn't like cruises and probably wouldn't want to go, so I just let it go. Still, I am annoyed at her presumptuousness.

Am I wrong to feel the way I do about her inviting her family without first asking if it was OK with me and my husband? Rita did say she was sorry for inviting them, but I'm still annoyed. I love my brother and sister-in-law, and I'd hate to cause family drama. I'd welcome your thoughts.

CRUISING IN HAWAII

DEAR CRUISING: I agree that what Rita did was pre-

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

sumptuous. It was also thoughtless. She did not have the right to invite anyone along on your holiday. IF Jewel tells Rita that she and her husband HAVE decided to come, it will then be Rita's responsibility to straighten the matter out by rescinding the invitation, and you should "sweetly" make that clear to her.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

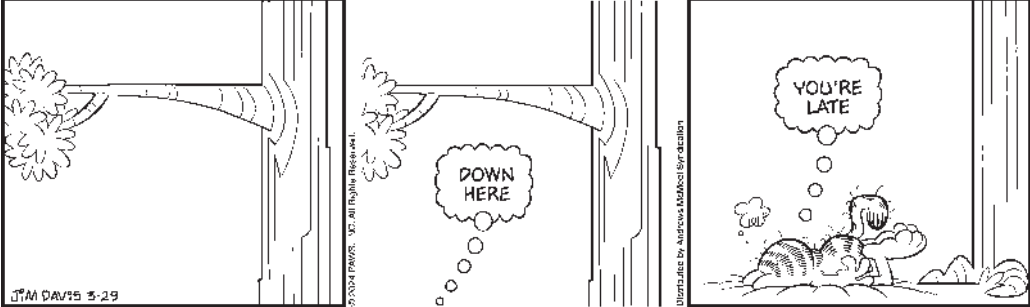
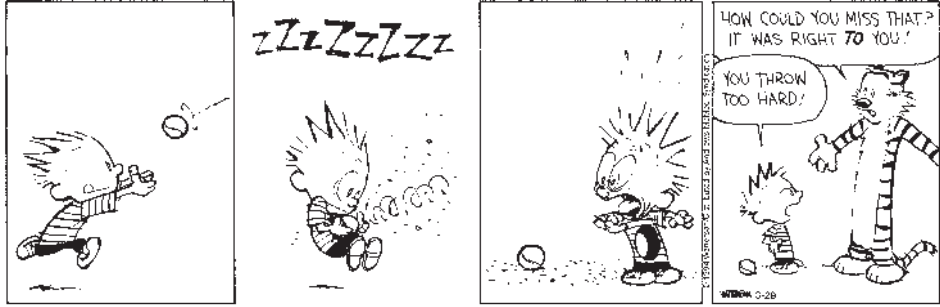
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 — de deux 4 Weaponize 7 Portends 12 Revue segment 13 Meadow 14 College newbie 15 Commonest English word 16 Declaration 18 Foot part 19 Giraffe features 20 Luke's mentor 22 Compass dir. 23 Sty chow 27 Marry 29 "Flash-dance" song 31 Court proceeding 34 Fountain drinks 35 Folder material 37 Aleppo's land (Abbr.) 38 Pizzazz

DOWN 1 Ham-burger portion 2 Sneeze sound 3 Trusty horse 4 Charitable gifts 5 Harvested 6 Massenet opera 7 True pals, in texts 8 Mined matter 9 Uno + uno 10 Ballpark fig. 11 HBO alter-native 17 Detail 21 Anticipate 23 Entangle 24 Rapper — Kim 25 Feedback tidbit 26 Mac rivals 28 Right angle 30 Comic Schumer 31 Celeb gossip source 32 — Dawn Chong 33 Connections 36 Advocacy org. 37 Ambulance sounds 40 More confident 42 Lubricated 43 Scoundrel 44 Lay to rest 45 Bar fight souvenir 46 "Hey, you!" 48 Club — 49 Common verb 50 Little louse 51 Bar supply

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-29

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Hilty, 43; Lucy Lawless, 56; Amy Sedaris, 63; Eric Idle, 81.

Happy Birthday: Look at your alternatives before settling on something that doesn't meet your expectations. Expand your search and discover what life offers, and you'll find your happy place. It's your life; make decisions that leave doors that intrigue you open and close those that no longer hold your interest. Secrecy is better until you are ready and able to pursue your dream. Your numbers are 9, 16, 20, 26, 34, 42, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A little pressure will go a long way. Stand up for your rights and discover what you can gain by following a passionate path. Set a budget and focus on savings, investing and redefining what's important to you. Sell what you no longer need. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Establish what you want to achieve. Entertain the possibility of not going solo, and you'll discover alternatives that lead to a window of opportunity. If you need to apply pressure, you are banging on the wrong door. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get your facts straight from the source. Someone will take advantage of you if you are naive. Ask questions and pursue information to protect yourself and your reputation. Consult institutions or authority figures to avoid making a mistake. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't fear what others tell you. Be curious and find out for yourself; what you discover will encourage you to use your skills to get things done. A proposal will grab your interest. Attend events

that are conducive to meeting someone interesting. Love is apparent. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Use intelligence to wheel and deal your way from one situation to another. Stay on alert and ready to make a last-minute adjustment if necessary. Your undivided attention will ensure that everyone stays on track. Don't disregard your inner voice. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let a friend, relative or colleague interfere with personal decisions. An emotional argument will turn into a no-win situation. Be a good listener and make opportunities and decisions. A short trip, reunion or lifestyle change will lift your spirits. Romance is favored. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Discuss issues openly and revise responsibilities that even out the workload or help you implement a timetable that encourages better functionality and control over the outcome. Don't let anger set in when resolve is what you need. Choose intelligence over pressure. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Give yourself a chance to breathe. Don't feel pressured by outside influences. Concentrate on your skills and what's meaningful to you. Change what's necessary. Take time to enjoy life and embrace what makes you happy. Romance is on the rise. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep emotions hidden and your eye on how others react. An open mind, combined with intelligence and the power of persuasion, will help you stay out of trouble and make wise decisions. Stick close to home and avoid situations that can result in injury, insult or illness. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Follow the rules and concentrate on your achievements. Put a plan in play that helps you stabilize your budget and encourages you to implement changes that will lower your overhead or offer opportunities to use your skills more profusely. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pay less attention to temptation and what others do, and spend more time and effort on bringing in extra cash and budgeting for something you want. Refrain from letting a last-minute change someone implements throw you off guard. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Finish what you start and present what you achieve; the feedback will lead to something new and exciting. Look for opportunities to invest in something that will increase your profile or skill set. *****

Birthday Baby: You are generous, spirited and opportunity-driven. You are mysterious and extraordinary.

⚡: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ⚡⚡: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ⚡⚡⚡: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ⚡⚡⚡⚡: Aim high; start new projects. ⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			1	2			6		
6							2		7
	8			5	9	3			
	2	3	5						
			5				8		
4	9			2				5	
						8	9	7	
			9						8
		8	1		5	4		2	

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 3/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	2	4	6	3	1	8	5	9
9	6	5	4	2	8	3	7	1
1	3	8	7	5	9	6	2	4
4	1	7	5	6	2	9	3	8
5	8	2	1	9	3	7	4	6
3	9	6	8	4	7	2	1	5
2	5	3	9	1	6	4	8	7
6	7	1	3	8	4	5	9	2
8	4	9	2	7	5	1	6	3

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/28

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

RICHARD LEWIS (1947-2024) Solution: 8 letters

M	A	Z	E	N	O	I	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C
A	U	B	N	L	K	C	A	L	B	E	D	O	C	O
G	T	R	T	I	S	R	G	A	M	E	D	A	Y	M
A	H	U	H	D	O	O	W	E	L	G	N	E	O	E
Z	O	C	U	R	E	M	F	O	E	I	Y	E	J	D
I	R	O	S	U	M	U	R	T	A	W	L	Y	T	I
N	S	U	I	N	A	H	A	P	C	R	K	T	P	A
E	E	N	A	K	C	T	F	I	T	I	O	I	R	N
S	N	T	S	S	S	O	M	Y	O	T	O	R	O	T
P	I	R	M	O	E	T	C	U	R	A	D	A		
I	T	Y	I	C	L	E	A	N	E	R	B	L	U	K
L	U	H	N	E	T	A	U	Q	E	D	A	I	C	E
I	O	I	E	L	L	I	B	L	A	N	C	H	E	T
H	R	E	G	A	T	S	Y	U	G	G	N	O	R	W
P	U	D	N	A	T	S	E	L	U	C	R	E	H	O

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Actor, Adequate, Author, Bill, Blanche, Brooklyn, Cameos, Celebration, Cleaner, Code Black, Comedian, Country, Curb, Drunks, Englewood, Enthusiasm, Game Day, Harry, Hercules, Hilarity, Humor, Joyce, Magazines, Maze, Ohio State, Philip, Prince of Pain, Producer, Role, Routines, Stage, Stand-up, Take Two, Tour, Writer, Wrong Guys
Yesterday's Answer: Formula
The NEW TELEVISION VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1 can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Jalen Green scores 37, Rockets beat Thunder in OT for 10th straight win



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The Houston Rockets didn't care that they beat an Oklahoma City squad that was missing its best player, All-Star guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander.

The Rockets celebrated loudly in the locker room after escaping with a win at one of the toughest venues in the league. Jalen Green scored 37 points and Houston won its 10th straight game, defeating the Thunder 132-126 in overtime on Wednesday night.

"It was lit, it was lit," Green said. "Everybody was happy, celebrating, screaming. I mean, we fought for that one. We worked hard."

Rockets coach Ime Udoka said it's all about stacking victories.

"Ten in a row is 10 in a row, regardless if Shai is out or whatever the case may be," Udoka said. "But it's hard to do in the NBA. The guys are proud of that effort, and well deserved."

Amen Thompson had 25 points and 15 rebounds and Dillon Brooks added 20 points for the Rockets.

Gilgeous-Alexander, who was out with a bruised right thigh, ranks third in the league with 30.4 points per game.

Josh Giddey matched a career-high with 31 points for the Thunder, one night after scoring a season-high 25 in a win at New Orleans. Jalen Williams added 23 points and 10 assists for Oklahoma City, which entered the night a half game behind the Western Conference-leading Denver Nuggets.

Oklahoma City coach Mark Daigneault made no excuses for the loss.

CLIPPERS 108, 76ERS 107

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Kawhi Leonard completed two 3-point plays late in the game then made a block at the rim on the final possession to lead the Los Angeles Clippers to a controversial 108-107 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

Kelly Oubre Jr. was stuffed at the rim by Leonard on a play that Sixers head coach Nick Nurse felt should have resulted in a foul on Paul George.

The officiating crew after the game said a foul should have been called on the last play that would have sent Oubre to the line with a chance to win the game.

Nurse stormed onto the court to dispute the non-call and had to be restrained by his assistants. Oubre also jumped into the mix, pointing at each official before being pulled away after the final horn.

"Well I think, listen, I think he took it in there pretty hard,



Oklahoma City Thunder center Mike Muscala, back, tries to steal the ball from Houston Rockets guard Jalen Green during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 27, 2024, in Oklahoma City.

right?" Nurse said. "I looked it on our computer screen a couple times. I thought there was certainly contact. Certainly as much as the last two or three that got called and I's at the other end. And that's all. I just thought it was enough contact to call. But that's the way it goes sometimes."

The game officials agreed.

"On the last play on the floor, in real time the crew interpreted that play as the defender jumping vertically," referee Kevin Scott said to a pool reporter. "However, in post-game video review we did observe some slight drift to his left by the defender George, and a foul should have been ruled."

NUGGETS 104, SUNS 97

DENVER (AP)—Kevin Durant had 30 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks and the Phoenix Suns won in Denver for the second time this month, beating the defending champion Nuggets 104-97 on Wednesday night.

The Suns, with the toughest remaining schedule in the NBA, moved a half-game ahead of Sacramento for the seventh spot in the Western Conference as they try to move up to sixth to avoid a play-in game. Dallas is No. 6, a half-game ahead of Phoenix.

The Western Conference-leading Nuggets struggled without starting point guard Jamal Murray, who missed his third straight game with a sprained left ankle.

Nikola Jokic had 22 points, nine rebounds and 10 assists as he fought through lower back pain and left hip soreness.

The Nuggets, a half-game ahead of Oklahoma City and Minnesota, lost for just the third time in 18 games since the All-Star break, and two of those losses have come at home to the Suns, who prevailed 117-107 in overtime at Ball Arena on March 5.

BULLS 125, PACERS 99

CHICAGO (AP)—DeMar DeRozan scored 27 points and Nikola Vucevic added 22 with 12 rebounds to lead the Chicago Bulls past the Indiana Pacers 125-99 on Wednesday night to snap a three-game skid.

Coby White had 18 points to help Chicago take the season series from Indiana 3-1.

All five Chicago starters reached double digits in scoring, but this victory was about defense. The high-scoring Pacers were held under 100 points for the first time this season. Their previous low was 101 against Boston in a loss on Jan. 6.

"As a team, I thought we were very connected defensively," Bulls coach Billy Donovan said. "I really thought the way they helped each other was very important ... with (Indiana) being such a hard team to guard offensively, the number of points they score."

TIMBERWOLVES 106, PISTONS 91

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Naz Reid had 21 points and 10 rebounds and Jaden McDaniels added 20 points to help the Minnesota Timberwolves overcome a sluggish start Wednesday night to beat the NBA-worst Detroit Pistons 106-91.

Rudy Gobert had 11 points and 14 rebounds and Kyle Anderson scored 14 points off the bench to help offset a quiet nine points by All-Star Anthony Edwards for the Wolves (50-22), who moved into a second-place tie with Oklahoma City in the Western Conference after the Thunder lost in overtime to Houston.

Denver played later, taking a one-game edge into a home game against Phoenix.

"Why not the first seed? And regardless of whether we do or not, we know the real season starts in mid-April," Gobert said.

LAKERS 136, GRIZZLIES 124

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—LeBron James had a triple-double with 23 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists, Rui Hachimura scored 32 points as the Los Angeles Lakers built a big lead in the third quarter and beat the Memphis Grizzlies 136-124 on Wednesday night.

Coming off a 128-124 double-overtime victory in Milwaukee without James on Tuesday night, the Lakers won their fifth straight to pull within 2 1/2 games of idle Dallas for the sixth spot in the Western Conference, a spot that would avoid a play-in game.

Anthony Davis sat out against Memphis after having 34 points and 23 rebounds in a career-high 52 minutes against Milwaukee. He hyperextended his left knee late against the Bucks. James said Hachimura's scoring—including 7 of 8 3-pointers—along with grabbing 10 rebounds was a key with Davis sitting out.

"Rui's ability to shoot and spread the floor was big time for us," James said. "He just stayed locked in all night."

D'Angelo Russell added 23 points for Los Angeles, and Taurean Prince had 15.

Desmond Bane led Memphis with 26 points and a career-high 16 assists. Jake LaRavia scored 14 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, and Jaren Jackson added 17. The Grizzlies have lost six of seven.

SPURS 118, JAZZ 111

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Devin Vassell scored 31 points, Victor Wembanyama had 19 points and five blocks and the San Antonio Spurs ran past the Utah Jazz 118-111 on Wednesday night.

The Spurs, second in the league in assists behind Indiana, had a season-high 40 on 44 field goals. San Antonio also shot 51.8% from the field and were well above .500 from

3-point range until missing their final four attempts and finishing 16 of 33.

Jeremy Sochan, Julian Champagnie and Malaki Branham all scored 17 points for San Antonio.

Collin Sexton had 26 points and nine assists, while Lauri Markkanen scored 25 points for the Jazz, who lost their seventh in a row.

The Jazz led just once and trailed by double-digits most of the game.

HORNETS 118, CAVALIERS 111

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Rookie Brandon Miller made seven 3-pointers and finished with 31 points, and Charlotte beat Cleveland 118-111 on Wednesday night to avenge a 23-point loss earlier in the week.

Miles Bridges and Tre Mann added 17 points and Grant Williams had 16 for the Hornets, who shot 58% from the field to snap a five-game losing streak. Vasa Micic had 11 points and 12 assists, and Nick Richards added 11 points and 10 rebounds.

But it was Miller who provided the boost—and the knockout blow with a 3 with 25 seconds left—for the Hornets.

Jarrett Allen scored 24 points and Sam Merrill added 17 for the Cavs, who have lost four of their last five games. Allen became the first Cleveland player in four games to top 20 points.

WARRIORS 101, MAGIC 93

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Andrew Wiggins scored 23 points, Stephen Curry made the final two baskets of the game on an off-shooting night and Golden State overcame Draymond Green's early ejection to beat Orlando.

Green, who missed 16 games after being suspended by the NBA in December, was ejected 3:36 in for disputing a foul call on Wiggins. It was Green's fourth ejection of the season.

Curry made a driving hook shot with 1:09 to go to make it 98-93 and added a 3-pointer with 34 seconds left for the final points. He had 17 points—going 6 of 18 from the field—and 10 assists.

Cole Anthony led Orlando with 26 points and eight rebounds. Paolo Banchero had 15 points and eight rebounds. Anthony's turnaround jumper brought the Magic within a point with 2:41 left.

NETS 122, WIZARDS 119, OT

WASHINGTON (AP)—Cam Thomas scored 38 points, including a pair of jumpers in overtime, and Brooklyn held off Washington, snapping the Wizards' modest three-game winning streak.

Jordan Poole scored a season-high 38 points for Washington, but he missed a 3-pointer that could have tied the game late in overtime. Dorian Finney-Smith had a chance to ice the game for Brooklyn with 4.3 seconds left, but he missed two free throws. The Wizards, however, were out of timeouts, and after securing the rebound, Washington's Deni Avdija lost control of the ball when he tried to dribble quickly upcourt.

HAWKS 120, TRAIL BLAZERS 106

ATLANTA (AP)—Dejounte Murray had 30 points and seven assists and Atlanta won their third in a row and handed Portland its eighth straight loss.

The Hawks won their third straight game and maintained a hold on 10th place in the Eastern Conference. The Trail Blazers lost their eighth in a row.

Garrison Mathews scored a season-high 21 points off the bench for the Hawks, hitting five three-pointers. It was part of a 41-point effort from the Hawks bench.

KNICKS 145, RAPTORS 101

TORONTO (AP)—Miles McBride scored 29 points, Jalen Brunson had 26 and New York never trailed in a win over slumping Toronto, New York's biggest margin of victory this season.

Precious Achiuwa had 19 points and 13 rebounds against his former team as the Knicks won for the seventh time in eight games, set a season-high for points and swept the four-game season series with Toronto.

Knicks center Mitchell Robinson played for the first time since a left ankle injury in December that sidelined him for 50 games. The 7-footer had not played since he was injured in a Dec. 8 loss at Boston, later undergoing surgery.

Robinson came off the bench and scored eight points in 12 minutes.

Here's what we know about allegations vs. Ohtani's interpreter



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Only

a week has passed since the Los Angeles Dodgers abruptly fired Ippei Mizuhara, the interpreter and constant companion of their new \$700 million slugger, Shohei Ohtani.

But the biggest story of baseball's spring is still murky—and shocking—as the regular season begins in earnest Thursday.

The scandal encompasses gambling, alleged theft, extensive deceit and the breakup of an enduring partnership between the majors' biggest star and his right-hand man. Investigations are underway by the IRS and Major League Baseball, and Ohtani publicly laid out a version of events Monday that placed the responsibility entirely on Mizuhara.

Here are the basics as Ohtani and the Dodgers prepare for their home opener against St. Louis on Thursday:

WHY WAS IPPEI MIZUHARA FIRED BY THE DODGERS?

Ohtani claims his close friend repeatedly took money from his accounts to fund his illegal sports gambling habit. Ohtani also says he was completely unaware of the “massive theft,” as his lawyers termed it, until Mizuhara confessed to him and the Dodgers last week in South Korea, where the team opened its regular season against the San Diego Padres.

Mizuhara has given more than one version of his path to this trouble, which was catalyzed by the IRS' investigation of Mathew Bowyer, an alleged illegal bookmaker. Mizuhara has consistently said he has a gambling addiction, and he abused his close friendship with the Dodgers superstar to feed it.

DID SHOHEI OHTANI EVER BET ON SPORTS?

That's the biggest question to be answered in Major League Baseball's investigation, and the two-time AL MVP emphatically says he has never gambled on sports or asked anybody to bet on sports for him.

Further, Ohtani said Monday he has never knowingly paid a bookie to cover somebody else's bets. Mizuhara also said Ohtani does not bet, and Bowyer's attorney said the same.

Mizuhara told ESPN on March 19 that Ohtani paid his gambling debts at the interpreter's request, saying the bets were on international soccer, the NBA, the NFL and college football. If that were true, Ohtani could face trouble even if he didn't make the bets himself—but ESPN



Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani walks into the dugout after grounding out as Max Muncy puts on his glove during the third inning of a spring training baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels Monday, March 25, 2024, in Los Angeles.

MLB owners unanimously approve sale of Baltimore Orioles to a group headed by David Rubenstein

By NOAH TRISTER
AP BASEBALL WRITER

David Rubenstein's purchase of the Baltimore Orioles was approved Wednesday by Major League Baseball owners, clearing the way for the Angelos family to finalize the sale after over three decades running the team.

Approval of 75% of all owners was required, and MLB said the vote was unanimous. It came the day before the team is scheduled to open the season at home against the Los Angeles Angels. Rubenstein and his investor group were expected to close the purchase later Wednesday.

“To own the Orioles is a great civic duty,” Rubenstein, a Carlyle Group Inc. co-founder, said in a statement. “On behalf of my fellow owners, I want the Baltimore community and Orioles fans everywhere to know that we will work our hardest to deliver for you with professionalism, integrity, excellence, and a fierce desire to win games.”

The Orioles scheduled a news conference for Thursday morning with Rubenstein and Maryland Gov. Wes Moore.

Angelos and his family took control of the Orioles in 1993, when Peter Angelos purchased the team for



David Rubenstein speaks during an interview hosted by the Economic Club of Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, in Washington.

\$173 million. Angelos' health took a turn for the worse in recent years—he died Saturday at age 94—and his son John has been the team's chairman, CEO and control person since 2019.

“I thank John Angelos and his family for all they have done to bring us to this point,” Rubenstein said. “John led a dramatic overhaul of the team's management, roster, recruitment strategy, and farm system in recent years. Our job is to build on these accomplishments to advance a world-class professional sports agenda—with eyes on returning a World Series trophy to Baltimore.”

Rubenstein's group, which includes Cal Ripken Jr. and Grant Hill, reached an agreement in January to buy the Orioles for an evaluation worth \$1.725 billion.

Rubenstein, a Baltimore native, formed Carlyle in 1987. Before that, he practiced law in Washington. From 1977-81, he was a deputy assistant for domestic policy to President Jimmy Carter.

The Orioles are coming off a 101-win season and their first AL East title since 2014. Hopes are high after the team acquired ace right-hander Corbin Burnes in a trade with Milwaukee. Young stars Adley Rutschman and Gunnar

Henderson have performed like franchise cornerstones, and Baltimore has another top prospect still in the minors in Jackson Holliday.

With all of that cost-controlled talent, the team's payroll remains meager, and the question is whether Rubenstein will be a more aggressive spender as the Orioles try to make the most of their opportunity to win a World Series for the first time since 1983.

Before the sale, the big off-season story for the Orioles was securing a long-term lease to stay at Camden Yards. That happened in December with a deal extending the lease for 30 years, with an option to end it after 15 if the team does not receive approval from state officials for development plans next to the stadium.

“Capping our organizational turnaround with a championship in perhaps the toughest division in sports, while fulfilling my pledge that the O's would forever play ball in Charm City, dovetails perfectly with the privilege to now pass stewardship of Baltimore's iconic team to a Baltimore native, passionate American, and celebrated philanthropist in David Rubenstein,” John Angelos said Wednesday. “The Orioles are in great hands, and the club, as well as the city and state that it calls home, are well positioned for success into the future.”

said Mizuhara dramatically changed his story the following day, claiming Ohtani had no knowledge of the gambling debts and had not transferred any money to bookmakers.

MLB rules prohibit players and team employees from wagering—even legally—on baseball. They also ban betting on other sports with illegal or offshore bookmakers.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR OHTANI?

Ohtani has played in every Dodgers game since the story broke, and he is expected to be their designated hitter in most regular-season games this season while baseball's investigation continues.

Ohtani says his legal team has alerted authorities to the theft by Mizuhara, although his team has repeatedly declined to say which authorities have been told, according to ESPN.

Ohtani's new interpreter is Will Ireton, a longtime Dodgers employee and fluent Japanese speaker who has filled several jobs with the team in everything from game preparation and analytics to recruiting free-agent pitches. But Ireton won't be Ohtani's constant companion, and manager Dave Roberts said Tuesday he's optimistic that Ohtani will become closer to his teammates without the “buffer” provided for years by Mizuhara.

WHAT DON'T WE KNOW?

MLB's investigation of Ohtani's role in the events could last weeks or months, and it's unlikely to be publicized until it's complete. No one outside of Ohtani's inner circle knows what it will find or how serious any repercussions could be, and nobody outside the circle is making informed speculation about the process.

One major question looms: How did Mizuhara have enough access to Ohtani's bank accounts to get the alleged millions without Ohtani knowing? Is the slugger overly trusting, or is he wildly negligent in managing his vast fortune, which includes years of lavish endorsement deals in addition to his baseball salaries? Why didn't the team around him, including his agent, do more to prevent the possibility of the theft he claims?

Finally, where is Mizuhara? Anybody who knows isn't saying. He was fired in South Korea and apparently didn't travel home with the Dodgers. Japanese media have visited his home in Southern California to look for him. Although he was born in Japan, Mizuhara's life is in the U.S.—but his life will never be the same.

Henry Bautista rules last two Fil-Taga tournaments

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Henry Bautista posted the lowest scores in the February and March tournaments of the Fil-Taga Golfers Association.

The 62-year-old Department of Public World highway engineer first topped the February Ace of the Month Tournament at the Kingfisher Golf



Links in Talafofo last Feb. 17 with a net score of 65 built around a gross score of 84 for the 19-handicapper. He beat Ruben Avendano and Albert Pajarillaga who finished with net score of 72 and 78.

In the March tourney at the Coral Ocean Resort last March 16, the Iloilo, Philippines native came away with a net score of 71, but yielded the monthly championship to Ed Varias with his net 72, as per club rules players who already won during the year are ineli-

gible for another monthly win. Third place went to Avendano with his net 74.

Bautista said despite varying experiences in the February and March aces, he was lucky to have come out on top.

"February was in Kingfisher, it's windy that time but I got the best score that day. March was in COP and it was fair weather but challenging when putting on the green. I always say that 'my departure is good but not at the arrival,'" he said.

He then dedicated his twin

lowest scores in the past two iterations of the Fil-Taga tourney to his family "because they always say good luck everytime I said I was going golfing."

Bautista started playing golf in 2005 but had to stop from 2007 until 2014. He got back to playing again in 2016 and hasn't stopped since. He tries to play every Fil-Taga monthly tournament with the occasional round or two with co-workers at DPW.

In the par-3 competition, the winners for February were Romy Cayetano, Pajarillaga, and Bautista himself. The winners for the same game in March were Cayetano again, William Retardo, and Freddie Cataluna.

Fil-Taga will hold its April Ace of the Month Tournament on April 20 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

The club will also co-host the 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament with the Saipan Pacific Lions Club on June 8 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. The beneficiary for the event is Karidat Social Services.

First, second, third, fourth, and fifth place in the double peoria tournament wins \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200, and \$100, respectively. Second to the last score will also win \$100. Hole-in-one prizes are brand new cars on holes No. 13 and 17 and \$10,000 cash each on holes No. 3 and 7. There is also optional play for \$30.

MHS to celebrate 55 years with Dolphin 5.5K Color Run

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Celebrating their 55th year anniversary with fun and fitness, Marianas High School is holding their Dolphin 5.5K Run this Saturday and are inviting members of the community to join them for the event starting at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Church.

The pathway color run will get an early start at 6:30am, and is anticipated to be one of the most colorful events of the weekend, with smiles and a

blast of color and fun for everyone. Medals will be given to the best of the finishers in the following categories—overall, freshmen, juniors, seniors, and staff participants.

At the end of the race, each participant will get a chance to be a part of the event's post-race raffle and have one free ticket and a shot at a various selection of incredible prizes. There will also be points given to MHS students involved in the run at 20 points per student and 1,000 points for the class with

the most participants.

Those interested are encouraged to sign up for the event and registration is currently open at \$10 per person.

On behalf of MHS, the school's vice principal A. Romolo Orsini shared that they extend their warm invitation to those who want to participate.

"Join MHS in an explosion of color and community spirit at our 5.5K Dolphin Color Run, as we celebrate 55 years of educational excellence! Whether you're a seasoned

runner, a casual jogger, a walker, or just looking to have fun with friends and family, this event promises an unforgettable experience for all. Come be a part of our vibrant celebration, where every step you take helps support our high school's continued success. Let's paint the island together on March 30, 2024, as we run, laugh, and create memories to last another 55 years and beyond. See you at the starting line! Biba PSS! Biba MHS!"

The event is hosted by the MHS Run Club, the MHS National Honor Society, and Run Saipan.



JANELLE

From page 24

partner, coach Janelle, just wanted to have fun and try our best but we did get competitive as the games went on. My partner covered more of the back while I tried my best to handle the front."

The 16-year-old Marianas High School student dedicated the women's double open win to Pangilinan.

"She coached me while also motivating me during the matches. So, I tried my best during the games for her."

In the mixed open doubles finals, Pangilinan and fellow CNMI national player Nate Guerrero downed Ferdie Arago and Canoza, 21-16, 21-11.

The eventual champions reached the finals after winning Bracket 1 and defeating Lance Gallardo and Monique Mascarinas in the semis. Arago and Canoza won Bracket 2 and advanced to the finals after beating Daniel Macario and Jen Cardinio.

Third place went to Gallardo and Mascarinas after they overcame Macario and Cardinio, 21-16, 18-21, 21-18. A total of 13 teams joined the mixed doubles event.

Guerrero said the mixed doubles open win was good preparation for his and Pangilinan's participation in an international tournament this summer.

"It was really just to try out new strategies as opposed to just focusing winning the game and we are still working on them for the betterment of our



Janelle Pangilinan, right, and Prapti Mondial in action in the women's doubles of the TanHoldings Badminton Open 2024 last weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

partnership and we will continue to do so. The strategy is to put ourselves in uncomfortable positions so we can learn how to overcome that adversity. Going into the finals was just about minimizing the mistakes and playing hard knowing if we do that, we'll get the results we wanted. We had good opponents in this tournament so we also knew we had to be on our best and can't take anyone lightly," said the 30-year-old Oleai Sports Complex staff.

Guerrero dedicated their win to the NMBA, tourney sponsor TanHoldings, Pangilinan, Macario, "as well as all the kids who love playing badminton in and out of the tournament."

Azura, meanwhile, took home championships in the men's open and men's doubles open of the TanHoldings Badminton Open 2024.

Azura claimed the men's open singles after a relatively easy 21-13, 21-12 win over Lance Gallardo. Azura was unbeaten in Bracket 2, recording

four wins that included a victory over Daniel Mar Pablo to reach the finals. Gallardo ruled Bracket 1 and also had four victories, including a win over Kyle Salcedo to move to the finals.

Third place in the 18-player men's open singles field went to Pablo after he topped Salcedo, 18-21, 21-11, 21-17.

Azura then tag-teamed with Pangilinan's older brother, Jordan, to upset national players Nate Guerrero and Ezekiel Macario, 21-15, 17-21, 21-14, in the finals.

Guerrero and Macario topped Bracket 1 after recording three wins, including a win over Arago and Dez Antonio. Pangilinan and Azura ruled Bracket 2 and also had three wins, including the semis victory over Dave Odicka and Marlon Bautista.

Bautista and Odicka won third place after beating Arago and Antonio, 20-21, 21-14, 21-18. A total of 12 pairs were entered in the men's open doubles.

Azura said the championships in the men's open singles

and men's open doubles notwithstanding, it was a fun and unforgettable experience being able to play with people who enjoy the sport as much as he does.

As for the strategy going into the men's open doubles finals with Pangilinan, "We just discussed and figured out where and how to get the shuttle to the open areas of the court during game play thus leading to the win," said the 29-year-old Barney's Pizza staff who dedicated his two championships to family, friends, his girlfriend, and fellow badminton players.

Jordan Pangilinan, meanwhile, said beating Guerrero and Macario was a real challenge.

"I'm just really glad that I am able to still compete at this level with new opponents and defend the men's doubles champion with my new partner, Jomari Azura. Likewise, having a new partner gave me an opportunity to improve my skills in badminton."

He said communication was key to winning because it was the first time he and Azura teamed up together.

"Our strategy was to be on the offensive side as much as possible. We try and communicate with each other on what we should do to set up each other by making drops or doing drives in order for us to do our smash attacks."

The 27-year-old Nutrition Assistance Program staff thanked her family, friends, and girlfriend Jadel Ignacio for all their support in his badminton hobby.

MAY

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part in the ITF J30 tourney on Saipan. Off-island entries will come mainly from Korea and Japan with some tennis players from Australia, Thailand, Vietnam, and other Asian countries.

The last time an ITF J30 event was held on Saipan was in 2019. The local ITF J30 event is open for tennis players 18-and-under but not younger than 13 years old.

Race said since no junior netter from the CNMI currently has an ITF world ranking, local entries will have to take their chances via a wildcard entry. To this end, he's encouraging those interested to sign up in the ITF website at tennis.com and register in the IPIN, which is the ITF's online service that allows players competing to enter and withdraw from ITF tournaments.

"As the ITF J30 tournament director I will have a very limited number of main draw wild-

card entry places. There are more wildcard entry places in the qualifying draw. Direct acceptance into this tournament is based on the player's ITF world ranking. Currently there are no NMI players with a ranking so the only NMI players who get into the main draw may be by wildcard, but it helps to sign up early. So, if you want to participate then please complete the courses, get your IPIN and enter the tournament as soon as possible," he said.

Race said players who do not meet the age eligibility requirements or are not in the tournament will participate as ball kids. "We will have some training sessions prior to the tournament," he said.

An ITF J30 event is a junior event with 30 world ranking points for the winner. It is the entry level event for emerging tennis players who are trying to acquire world ranking points to be accepted on the professional tour or win a scholarship to a U.S. college.

INDIA

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Federation director and 3X3 administrator believes that the CNMI women will play better in their next two games.

"You saw that adjustment with the boys heading into their second game and I'm confident our girls will follow suit."

As for the men, Rangamar said she liked their fight-back against South Korea after they were buried by an avalanche of points early on.

"I thought they did great. The nerves at the beginning of the game were expected. They're playing at the highest level of their basketball careers plus the opening game of the tournament," she said.



The CNMI's Coby Santos shoots from beyond the 2-point arc in the game against Sri Lanka in the 3x3 FIBA Asia Cup last Wednesday in Singapore.



Jalen Green scores 37, Rockets beat Thunder in OT for 10th straight win.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

MHS to celebrate 55 years with Dolphin 5.5K Color Run.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Janelle, Jomarie win multiple divisions



Jomarie Azura, left, and Jordan Pangilinan in action in the men's doubles of the TanHoldings Badminton Open 2024 last weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Janelle Pangilinan and Jomarie Azura reigned supreme in the TanHoldings Badminton Open 2024 after triumphing in multiple divisions last weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Pangilinan teamed up with Prapti Mondial to top the women's doubles open of the Northern Marianas Badminton Association-organized three-day tournament.

Their journey to the finals was circuitous as they had to beat Shemariah Hicaro and Trizian Canoza in the loser's bracket. Then in the finals, Pangilinan and Mondial had to beat top finalist Genelyn Lansangan and Jen Cardinio twice to win the championship.

They took Game 1, 21-12, 20-21, 21-12, to erase Lansangan and Cardinio's twice-to-beat advantage then took the tiara with a pulsating 15-14 win. Hicaro and Canoza settled for third place in the seven-team division.

Pangilinan said there was some trepidation entering the finals of the women's open dou-

bles, which was not the case in the mixed doubles.

"I knew it was going to be very challenging since me and my partner are new as a doubles team. The strategy was to give it all in every point, even though it was a far gap in score, both leading or behind," said the 24-year-old TanHoldings employee who dedicated her twin wins to NMBA board members and everyone who made the tournament possible.

Modial, for her part, said she didn't expect the win at all as she was sick going into the finals and didn't really touch a badminton racquet prior to the tournament.

"It was a lot of fun but definitely tough to play. There wasn't a specific strategy going into the finals. Me and my

JANELLE on Page 23

CNMI men go down vs. Sri Lanka, Indonesia; women routed by India

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EDITOR



The CNMI men completed their qualifying round matches with losses to Sri Lanka and Indonesia, while the women scored only a point in their debut against India in the 3x3 FIBA Asia Cup in Singapore.

A few hours after losing to South Korea in the opener last Wednesday, Douglas "Spyder" Schmidt, Coby Santos, Preston Basa, and Jack Lizama suited up against Sri Lanka and fared much better in a 13-21 loss. Schmidt led the CNMI's cause anew with 5 points, while Santos and Lizama added 4 points apiece.

In yesterday's game against Southeast Asian basketball



The CNMI's Mikki Kautz drives against India in the 3x3 FIBA Asia Cup last Wednesday in Singapore.

powerhouse Indonesia, the CNMI lost 16-10 as defense ruled the matchup. Santos poured in a personal tourney-high 7 points, while Lizama added 2 markers. Schmidt was limited to a point. NMI actually carried leads of 7-5 and 8-6 before fading away in the last five minutes of the contest.

The CNMI women's team of Kaia Travilla, Jan Travilla, Mikki Kautz, and Madeleine Alegre, meanwhile, debuted with a 21-1 shellacking courtesy of India late Wednesday night. The South Asian giant scored the first 11 points of the contest before Alegre put the CNMI's first and only point

on the scoreboard at the 5:26 mark of the ballgame.

The CNMI women took on Hong Kong and Indonesia in back-to-back games at 9:20pm and 10:35pm, last night to close out their preliminary assignments.

Team manager Lia Rangamar said the CNMI men's and women's teams' struggling in their first ever 3x3 basketball competition in Asia was sort of expected.

"We had tough opening games. We're playing at the highest level of competition that our players have ever seen, but we need to find our composure early on and embrace the physicality of the game. There is no luxury of time in 3x3."

After the 1-point outing against India, the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball

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CNMI to host ITF J30 tourney in May

By MARK RABAGO
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The CNMI will be hosting an ITF J30 tournament anew from May 27 to June 2 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race, who will serve as tourney director, said up-and-coming junior netters should take advantage of Saipan

hosting an ITF J30 again.

"It's great for our kids that we'll be resuming our ITF world ranking event. Getting one's first ITF points can be very tough and this is the best opportunity that they have to do that."

The CNMI Sports Hall of Fame inductee and many time NMSA Coach of the Year said he's expecting at least 50 players from off-island to take

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race welcomes players and guests during the awards ceremony of last weekend's 2024 Bridge Capital Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.